

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 292

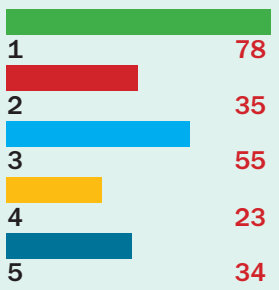
MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 2012

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## POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how safe do you feel inside your homes these days?



Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012

## INSIDE

### NATION



The gunman behind the school massacre shot 20 children at least twice.

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### WORLD



Egyptians took their quarrel over a draft charter to polling stations.

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### LIFE & STYLE



As it turns out, Catwoman and Wolverine can sing.

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**Masked man robs Pretty Market. PAGE 3**  
**DPS releases murdered couple's photos. PAGE 4**

## IN HIS STRONGEST ASSURANCE TO LAWMAKERS SO FAR:

# AG: No evasion of justice for anyone

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas assured lawmakers last week that his office “will not shy away from the issue” of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham’s extradition, adding that “no criminal defendant should be allowed to evade justice, no one.”

» **Inos to public:**  
**Chill out, no need to raise funds**  
» **Fitial remains mum on Buckingham extradition**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial remains tightlipped about the issue as of Friday, while Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos urged the public to “chill out a little bit,” that “things will happen,” and that there’s no need for the public to raise funds to bring the former AG back.

Fitial dodged reporters’ questions Friday whether he would sign off on a recommendation from the Office of the Attorney General, if any, to bring back Buckingham



San Nicolas

to the CNMI to answer criminal charges filed against him by the Office of the Public Auditor. The governor came back Thursday from the Philippines where his wife, Josie, is recuperating after a surgery, and had yet to receive full briefing by Friday noon on the extradition matter.

Fitial and Buckingham signed a no-bid, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement with

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## Bridge Capital donates \$60K to 43 groups

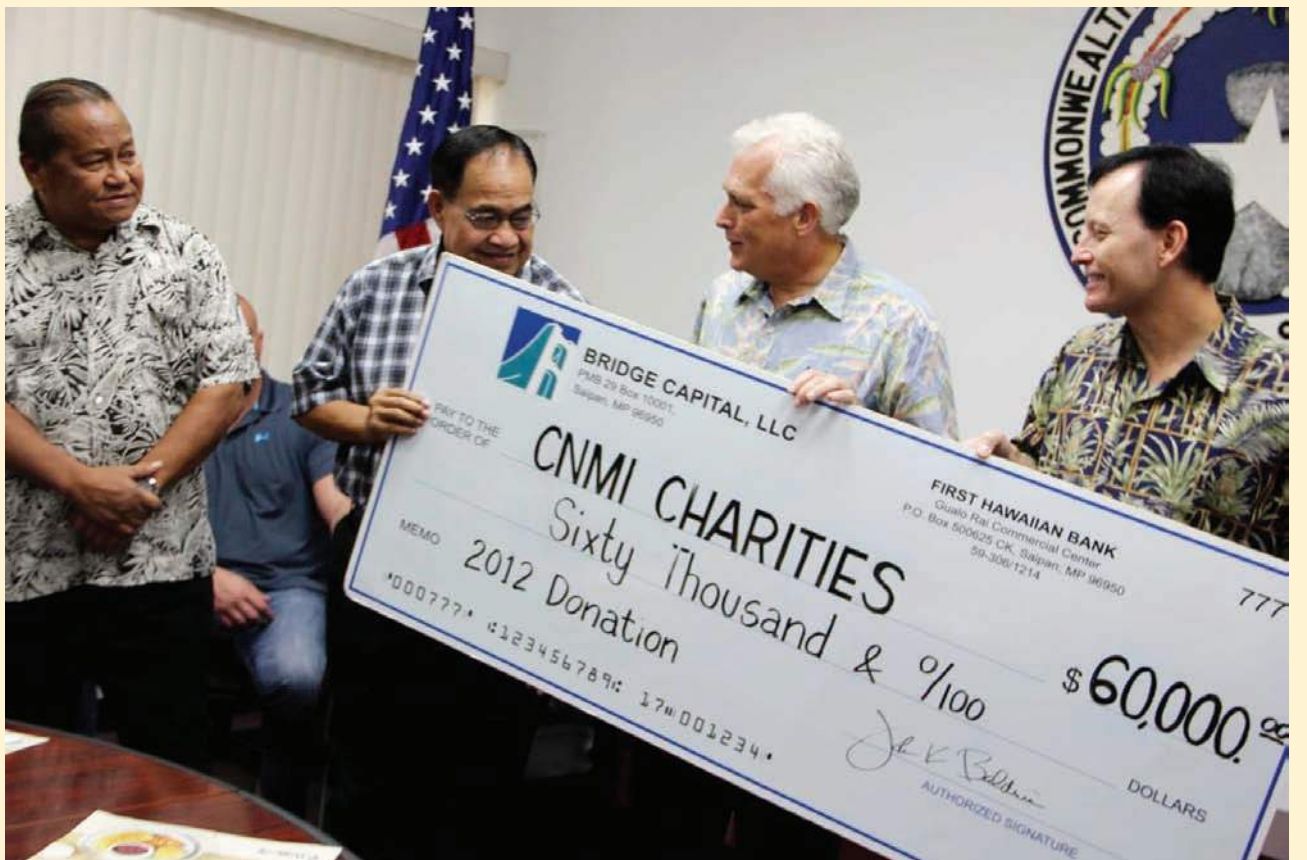
» **Company hosts 2nd ‘Saipan Got Talent’**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

When the going gets tough, charitable organizations, schools, and other members of the community know that they could count on Bridge Capital LLC. The company donated a total of almost \$60,000 this year to 43 entities, almost half or 21 of them getting their checks on Friday morning during a ceremony on Capital Hill. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos witnessed the pre-Christmas donations at a packed governor’s conference room.

Some six hours later, Bridge Capital held its second “Saipan Got Talent” competition that highlighted its 2012 Christmas party at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. Twelve-year-old violinist Allan Tudela bagged the grand prize once again, followed by singing

See DONATES on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Bridge Capital LLC principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin and co-manager Shawn Scott during Bridge Capital’s presentation of donated checks to 21 charitable organizations and schools on Friday morning on Capital Hill. This brings to \$60,000 the international investment banking and asset management firm’s donation to 43 entities this year.

## Hart faces ‘no confidence’ vote

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORT

Faculty members of the Northern Marianas College have reportedly lost trust and confidence in the leadership of president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., after an overwhelming majority gave her a vote of “no confi-



Hart

dence” Friday morning.

Saipan Tribune learned that the voting was held at 9am at room J1 Building during an assembly that saw the attendance of 23 full-time faculty members.

College sources disclosed that 19 attendees voted no confidence in the president; two

See HART on Page 4

## Senate hands off on Ayuyu

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

After an almost two-month review, the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures chaired by Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) recommended that senators refrain from



Ayuyu

taking any action against Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) until after the U.S. District Court for the NMI decides on his indictment related to allegations that Ayuyu and another individual tried to smuggle eight fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010.

See AYUYU on Page 4



# Local

## Contestant's luck runs out in UFO's Deal or No Deal

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

Christmas came early for a former United Filipino Organization officer who went home \$150 richer last Dec. 15 after joining Deal or No Deal, the highlight of UFO's *Paskong Pinoy* 2012 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Mylene Macapagal bought \$5 worth of raffle tickets, two of which were called out for a chance to be a contestant in the game hosted by Ulysses Sabuco. She and another friend joined the elimination round that asked 50 contestants trivia questions relating to Christmas.

Macapagal, who works as a cashier at ABCD Market, bested other contenders to advance to the final round. For her



Mylene Macapagal has her picture taken with Deal or No Deal host Ulysses Sabuco and the Briefcase Ladies after last Saturday's *Paskong Pinoy* held at the Garapan Fishing Base.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

home \$75.

Other contests had to be cancelled due to lack of time as the UFO's annual signature Christmas event started later than scheduled, group officials said after the event.

"We're so blessed that it didn't rain. We're really happy about the turnout and we want to thank our sponsors and donors and the entire community for making the event another success," said UFO secretary Annamae Adaza.

For outgoing president Bong Malasarte, the event went smoothly and without incidents, thanks to the support of other officers, members, and volunteers who ensured that the crowd was entertained and had an enjoyable time.

"There were other events going on but the public still found time to visit *Paskong Pinoy*. We were exhausted and worn out from all the preparations but it was all worth it," he said.

Malasarte thanked major sponsor Docomo Pacific and their newest sponsor, LBC, for making the event possible.

"We greet all Filipinos and the rest of the CNMI a merry and peaceful Christmas. I know that these are challenging times for everyone but let us pray and remain positive. Continue to work hard and believe that things will eventually get better," he added.

UFO also concluded its fund drive for the victims of Super Typhoon Pablo in the Philippines. Malasarte said the donations will be accounted for and handed over to the Philippine Red Cross in coming days.

briefcase, Macapagal chose No. 25 or Christmas Day, as she explained on stage.

But Macapagal's stroke of luck ended early after opening the first briefcase, No. 3, which contained the grand prize of \$2,000 and was succeeded by other large amounts in the game's money board.

Macapagal found out that it was a smart move to take the banker's offer of \$150, when she was down to her last two briefcases, her chosen No. 25 which contained the elusive \$1, and No. 19 which had \$300.

A worker on Saipan for 18 years, Macapagal said after the game that she was very happy with the outcome even though she did not win the coveted \$2,000 grand prize.

"I only paid \$5 for my tickets and I went home with \$150. It's still a great deal," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Macapagal said she will donate a portion of her prize money to UFO, where she served during former president Olive Yana's tenure, while the rest will be spent to treat her husband Arnold Castro who couldn't join her at the event as he had to look after their apartment.

"Thank you so much to UFO for bringing this kind of fun event for the Saipan community," she added.

Over a thousand spectators gathered at the venue throughout late afternoon until night time to enjoy the festivities that featured 14 food booths, 11 non-food vendors, live entertainment, and other contests.

Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club emerged first place and won \$200 in the choral singing contest after receiving 95 points from the judges. Marianas High School came second with 89 points and won \$100. Winning third place is the Cornerstone choir, which garnered 71 points and won \$50.

For the lantern contest, Ruel Nava bagged first and third places and won \$100 and \$50, respectively. Second place went to Rachel Bastarahe who took

## Taxi driver injured in robbery

A taxi driver was injured when three men allegedly beat him up during a robbery on Saipan early Friday morning.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from sources that the victim, a Chinese national, was injured in the head and taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

One suspect was subsequently arrested.

The three suspects, including one armed with a knife, demanded money from the driver.

Two suspects sitting in the back allegedly started beating up the driver.

It was not clear how police were able to arrest one suspect, described as a Korean national. The two other suspects were described as locals.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the victim is one of the drivers of Song Taxi.

The Department of Public Safety is expected to release details of the robbery today, Monday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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## Masked man robs Pretty Market

A masked man armed with a golf club robbed the Pretty Market on Middle Road, Garapan Friday morning.

No one was injured but the robber managed to run off with over

\$500 cash, two cartons of Kool "Green" cigarettes, and one carton of Kool "Blue" cigarettes.

The suspect was described as skinny, about 5'6" tall, about 140 to 170 lbs, and was wearing

a gray mask, black long-sleeved shirt, a pair of black long pants, and black shoes.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said that police officers responded to the robbery incident at Pretty

Market on Friday at 5:02am.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that the suspect jumped on top and over the cashier counter.

Holding a golf club, the suspect shouted at the cashier, a 37-year-old female, telling her to open the cash register. When the cashier opened the register, the robber grabbed the money and three cartons of cigarettes.

The suspect jumped back over

the cashier counter and exited the establishment. He then got inside the front passenger seat of a white Toyota Camry that was parked in the parking lot of the store.

The getaway vehicle fled south on Middle Road. Police said the car has a license plate ADO with the last three digits containing the numbers 6 or 4. The car had black rims.

Tarkong said the Department of Public Safety and

Crime Stoppers Program are seeking help from the public about this incident.

"Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous. Chinese speaking and other language interpreters are available," said Tarkong who is also coordinator for Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 cash for any information leading to an arrest. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## SDLLC seeks protective order from deposition

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Saipan Development LLC has filed a motion to prevent two men associated with the firm from attending a deposition that, according to them, was filed prematurely in connection with a taxpayers' lawsuit on a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

The plaintiffs—the Senate and Reps. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and Ray Anthony N. Yumul (IR-Saipan)—through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho opposed the motion by asserting that the Superior Court should not issue a protective order because Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC offers no valid grounds for such an order.

Kenneth Mahmood, adviser for SDLLC, and Jason Osborne, consultant for Allegiance Capital Corp., were subpoenaed to testify at a deposition on Dec. 17 and 18, respectively. The Delaware firm bagged the 25-year power purchase deal.

Deposition refers to a process of taking testimony of a witness outside of court.

In a motion for protective order filed in court on Thursday, SDLLC counsel William M. Fitzgerald said the a protective order is warranted as plaintiffs filed deposition notices in contravention of civil procedure rules.

Citing a previous case, the lawyer said the court found the plaintiffs' efforts to pursue written discovery premature because the parties had not agreed to conduct discovery; the court has not held an initial scheduling conference because of pending motions to dismiss; and the

## Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Dec. 17-20 from 9am to 4pm, and on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Dec. 17-21 from 10am to 8pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of air-space that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. *(PR)*

court had not entered a scheduling order.

In this case, Fitzgerald noted that a scheduling order has not been entered and that there is no agreement between the parties in this case for depositions or any discovery to be taken prior to the entry of a scheduling order.

"Plaintiffs' attempt to engage in premature discovery with the noticing of depositions is improper. This necessitates the issuance of a protective order to preclude plaintiffs' premature discovery," the lawyer added.

The two notices of deposition for Mahmood and Osborne were filed on Dec. 4, 2012.

In the plaintiffs' opposition to the motion filed Friday, Quichocho said the court should find that the notices of deposition and subpoenas to testify at a deposition are valid and in compliance with the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

Quichocho said that SDLLC simply wants to delay the final resolution of the case and wants to make it as expensive as possible for the plaintiffs.

Quichocho said a protective order is not warranted because the motion is meritless.

He asserted that just because there is no order regarding the scheduling of discovery it does not mean that this case stops and plaintiffs are going to be forced to a standstill.

The Senate and Reps. Maratita and Yumul are suing Gov. Be-

nigno R. Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that the 25-year power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

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# DPS releases murdered couple's photos

The Department of Public Safety has released photographs of a Chinese couple who were murdered inside their home in San Vicente last Dec. 8.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said Friday that DPS provided the photos



Liu



Li Yang

with hopes that anyone with information about the case will contact police at 664-9001.

The photos, Tarkong said, were taken about a year ago.

Tarkong also

disclosed that, on Thursday, a family friend of the dead couple offered his assistance to help police positively identify the male victim.

He said positive identification of Jun Li Yang, 50, was made on the same day, Thursday, at 3:47pm, by Yang's close friend. Police did not specify how Yang was identified.

Tarkong confirmed that Yang is the husband of the female victim Jing Liu,

who was positively identified by investigators earlier last week.

The officer said the Division of Youth Services still has the couple's 6-year-old son in protective custody pending notification of the victims' next of kin.

"Local and federal law enforcement agencies continue to work in

collaboration with regards to processing of the crime scene, and the couple's car (white 2010 Honda CRV) that was recovered at Micro Beach, Garapan," said Tarkong in a statement.

The suspect or suspects took the couple's car and left it at Micro Beach. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## DONATES

From Page 1

sensation John Darag.

Bridge Capital principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin, during Friday morning's ceremony, said they got the most number of requests for donations this year compared to previous periods and this could well be an indication of how financially tough it is in the CNMI. He said it was hard to decide which entities to help so their list was much longer this year than in prior years.

Bridge Capital is an international investment banking and asset management company headquartered on Saipan.

Of the 21 entities that received donations from Bridge Capital on Friday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Hemodialysis Center and the First Lady's Vision Foundation got the biggest amount of \$5,000 each. It was also the first time for Bridge Capital to give to CHC's Hemodialysis Center, represented during the ceremony by CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta.

Bridge Capital also donated to the following entities on Friday: Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen, Saipan Little League Baseball, Rota Little League Association, Tinian Little League Association, Autism Society of the CNMI, NMI Football Association, Commonwealth Cancer Association,

Center for Independent Living, Rota High School for its school supplies, Beautify CNMI!, NMI Council for the Humanities, Marianas High School, NMI Crime Stoppers, Tinian High School, Turtle Advocate and Guardian Society or TAGS, Pet Assistance and Welfare Services or PAWS, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Karidat, and Friends of the Arts.

Throughout the year, Bridge Capital donated to 22 other entities including the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture with \$10,000 and American Red Cross with \$5,000.

Joining Baldwin in the check presentation were Bridge Capital co-manager Shawn Scott and other company officials and staff.

Bridge Capital has been a supporter of charitable organizations and groups, including those that promote and preserve art, music, and literature.

### 'Saipan Got Talent'

Highlighting Bridge Capital's 2012 Christmas party on Friday night at Pacific Islands Club was the second "Saipan Got Talent" competition, which drew 17 groups and individuals that showcased a variety of talents from playing the violin, cello, and piano to dancing, singing, and even playing the yoyo.

Tudela, 12, bagged once again the top prize with his piece, *Tarantula*.

"I feel happy," Tudela, a music student at Do Re Mi Music School, told reporters shortly after the talent show

wrapped up.

His music teacher, Ao Zhang, president of Do Re Mi Music School, said Tudela has big dreams of becoming a world-renowned violinist. Tudela, a seventh grader at Agape Christian School, has been joining and winning music competitions in and outside the CNMI.

Singer John Ronald Darag again bagged the second prize with his rendition of *This is the Moment*.

Lt. Gov. Inos was once again on the five-member panel of judges.

The other winners included Marianas High School's Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club, Passion dance group, pianist Doo Yong Lee, singing and guitar duo Lily Musicseed, and Nathan Skitties Palacios with his breakdancing.

Other participants included pianist Cloency Chua, singer Matthew Lopez, singer Veronika Lisua, yoyo player Julius Barro, whose act also included a formal proposal to a woman to be his girlfriend, cellist Hae Lin Kim, drums player JR Cadua, violinist Zhen Yu Su, singer Christine Musni, acoustic band led by Abel Pellegrino, and violinist Colin Fruit.

All the 17 participants went home with cash prizes each.

Baldwin said next year's "Saipan Got Talent" would have a Christmas theme and invited talents to participate once again.

Bridge Capital also raffled off several prizes for guests, and treated them to a sumptuous PIC dinner buffet.



Winners and other participants in this year's "Saipan Got Talent" competition pose for a group photo along with Bridge Capital LLC officials led by its principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio on Friday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## AYUYU

From Page 1

"Your committee recommends that the Senate respect the judicial process of the NMI District Court and Senator Ayuyu should be afforded the opportunity to address this matter before the court. Your committee further recommends that the Senate refrain from taking any action until such time that the court renders its decision in this matter," the panel concluded in its four-page report, a copy of which was obtained Friday afternoon.

Of the eight members of the committee, five signed off on the report dated Dec. 10. They included chairman Hofschneider, vice chair and Senate floor

leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Three others didn't sign the report: Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan).

On Oct. 19, 2012, a federal grand jury indicted Ayuyu and former Rota Municipal Council staffer Ryan James I. Manglona on charges of conspiring to violate and for violating the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act when they allegedly tried to smuggle eight fruit bats from Rota to Saipan two years ago.

Two months ago, when Ayuyu was indicted, the Senate said Ayuyu as is presumed innocent unless and until

proven guilty. The Senate said he continues to be a senator.

Ayuyu, 48, is a freshman senator heading the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications. He recently butted heads with Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) over the senator's meeting with Saipan Development LLC regarding a no-bid \$190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement that is under temporary injunction. The two have since mended fences.

In an earlier interview about the indictment, Ayuyu said he never intended to break any law and did not harm anyone but that he respects the judicial process.

As of yesterday, senators declined to comment on the report.

## JUSTICE

From Page 1

Saipan Development LLC a day before the former AG left the CNMI initially to take his 30-day leave before resigning from his post.

San Nicolas's response letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* on Friday, thanked Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) for their joint letter regarding Buckingham.

"Rest assured that the Office of the Attorney General will not shy away from the issue of former AG Buckingham's extradition...I agree that no criminal defendant should be allowed to evade justice, no one," San Nicolas told the lawmakers.

Tebuteb, when asked for comment yesterday, said he's thankful for the AG's response to their joint letter and is looking forward to San Nicolas' formal request letter to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco to initiate the extradition process.

Private citizens and individual government officials, including Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), separately said last week that they will donate funds to help cover the cost of extraditing Buckingham to the CNMI, if the administration is worried about the cost of the process.

Inos, in an interview on Friday, asked the public to "chill out a little bit."

"Things will happen. We got priorities. We're working on a double murder right now and there are issues we're still working on. Mr. Bucking-

ham, we'll get to him," Inos said in an interview after witnessing Bridge Capital LLC's donations to 21 charitable groups and schools.

Inos pointed out that, while cost is a factor, should the extradition be pursued, it's "not going to be the deciding factor on this matter." He said the administration has yet to determine how much such a process would cost.

"We don't have any money set aside for that kind of stuff but that doesn't mean we can't find money for that," he said.

Inos said the decision to push the extradition or apprehension is "more of a legal policy issue and we have not come to that point as yet, at least from my standpoint."

"We don't know how much it's going to cost but again it's not going to be the overriding reason to move forward or not to move forward," he said, adding that he has yet to get anything from the OAG "as to procedure, legality, the justification and so forth."

"So we will wait," he added.

Delegate Sablan had said that the U.S. Department of Justice is willing to pursue Buckingham but the CNMI has to initiate the process to extradite him. He said a request from San Nicolas to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco "would be necessary to initiate Mr. Buckingham's capture."

Buckingham is facing criminal charges in connection with his alleged hosting of a political campaign in 2010 for the governor's delegate candidate, obstruction of justice in August 2012 when he allegedly used police and ports police officers to shield him from being served a penal summons, and approval of a sole-source ARRA management contract, among other things.



# OIA injects \$500K into Prior Service benefits program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Nikolao Pula, Director for the Office of Insular Affairs, announced yesterday a \$500,000 grant to support beneficiaries of the Prior Service Trust Fund Administration. Funding is made available through OIA's Technical Assistance Program. Support funds Prior Service benefit payments to beneficiaries in the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau.

Beneficiaries are citizens who worked for the U.S. Department of the Navy and the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands between 1944 and June 30, 1968. The Prior

Service Benefits Trust Fund Administration ensures the solvency of the Fund and that payments to beneficiaries continue uninterrupted.

"I am pleased to support this initiative as a part of our appreciation and gratitude for the men and women of the former TTPI districts who helped support U.S. military and civilian personnel over more

than two decades as the United States carried out its responsibilities as the TTPI's administering authority," said Pula.

From the last days of World War II, Micronesians worked with U.S. military and civilian personnel providing essential services, including those to active-duty soldiers, sailors and airmen and care for the wounded and support for the men

fighting in places like Iwo Jima and Okinawa. These employees were paid very low meager salaries, often as low as 9 cents an hour, with no employee benefits.

In June 2009, a census of beneficiaries was conducted, revealing 359 beneficiaries in the CNMI, 753 in the FSM, 236 in the RMI, and 319 in the Republic of Palau. (OIA)

## Court urged to deny disbursement of checks pending impact analysis

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The plaintiff in the ongoing case against the NMI Retirement Fund and the government urged the federal court to deny the emergency proposal of trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano to authorize the withdrawal and disbursement of refund checks to members who terminated their membership, citing the need for a desk audit, an impact analysis, and a review of the validity of the refund law.

In a seven-page filing on Friday at the U.S. District Court, Betty Johnson, through counsels Bronster Hoshibata, Bruce Jorgensen, and Stephen Woodruff, stated that if Razzano's proposal is granted, it necessarily requires the court to construe Public Law 17-82 as valid and constitutional when the court has not had an opportunity to fully consider the law's meaning or validity.

She stated that PL 17-82 "has been sold to the public" as a transition to Social Security but its most immediate impact has been to allow the CNMI to cease making required employer contributions. Johnson used the opinion of the Fund's own actuary that determined in September that the refund law was invalid. This means, she said, that even though the CNMI is

currently in arrears of over \$200 million in unpaid contributions, PL 17-82 purports to allow the CNMI to simply decline to pay the \$14 million in employer contributions that it would otherwise be required to pay this year.

Johnson said the Fund's motion fails to raise or adequately address the thorny legal and factual issues. It also fails to address the problems that are inherent in its proposal to immediately begin paying refunds to the vast majority of members.

"The Fund's proposal will radically alter the status quo by removing approximately \$100 million from the Fund when it is grossly underfunded on an actuarial basis due to the [government's] chronic failure to make its required payments to the Fund. Because of the magnitude and complexity of the issues raised, the court should refrain from endorsing the Fund's proposal until after it has had an opportunity to consider evidence and argument regarding the status of the Fund," stated Johnson's filing.

Contrary to the underlying assumption of the Fund motion, she said the refund law does not require payment of immediate refunds. Instead, it requires three separate predicament events that have not yet occurred: extension of the Social Security system by the U.S. to

include the employee members; promulgation of an application form in accordance with the Commonwealth Administrative Act; and approval by the Fund of each application.

In addition, she said the validity of the law has been questioned and the Fund makes no effort to address any of the con-

cerns in its motion.

According to Johnson, federal law must be changed to allow the transition to the Social Security system and that has yet to happen.

The Fund, she added, also failed to provide the court sufficient information to determine precisely what the impact of

payment of the refunds will be.

The Fund, after issuing 93 refunds checks to members who elected to terminate their membership in the program, suspended the disbursement, citing the delinquent contributions of both the employee and employer contributions of the government and its autonomous agencies. The

Fund seeks the guidance of the court on this matter.

To date, more than 1,700 members have applied for refunds with the Fund. That is more than half of the active members of the pension agency. Last week, the trustee *ad litem* filed an emergency proposal to allow the withdrawal of monies only for members with complete payments.

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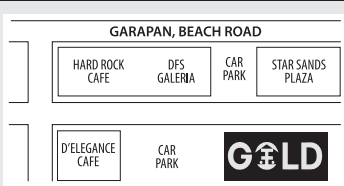
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Jerry Tan



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# Close Up program gets \$550K

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nikolao Pula, director for the Office of Insular Affairs, announced over the weekend a \$550,000 grant to the Close Up Foundation, a civic education non-profit organization. Funding provides continued support for civic education programs that work with students, teachers and administrators from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the

Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Students and teachers participating in the Close Up Washington Program will spend a week with their peers from around the United States meeting with federal officials, engaging in public policy workshops and simulations, current issues debates and visiting the monuments and in-

stitutions of our nation's capital. The groups meet with their respective congressional and embassy representatives to discuss local impacts of federal policy. Teachers participate in a series of professional development seminars that provide training and materials to improve their civic education skills. Funding provides further support for Close Up education staff to travel to the islands to develop specialty training programs for island communities that teach students to identify, research, debate and develop public policy proposals that are later presented to local officials at a youth summit.



Pula

"Over the past 25 years, OIA has supported the Close Up Foundation for their invaluable role in developing civic education programs that provide our young islanders with a deeper understanding and appreciation of government and the role that each individual plays in our democratic system," said Pula.

"Close Up is unique in that it allows our young, future island leaders to engage and become active participants in meaningful dialogue that challenges the status quo while offering tangible solutions to very important public policy debates," added Pula.

The Close Up Foundation has been administering civic education programs in the Pacific Islands through funding

provided by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for over 20 years. (OIA)

## Saipan Soccer School plays Santa



CLARISSA V. DAVID

A students at the Joaquina M. Rabaulman Head Start Center sits on Santa's lap for a photo opportunity.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Soccer School gave away gift bags Friday morning to over a hundred students at the Joaquina M. Rabaulman Head Start Center.

Young learners in the morning and afternoon sessions at the center each received gift bags containing coloring books, jigsaw puzzles, crayons, pencils, and stickers, which were personally delivered by Santa Claus and Saipan Soccer School coaches and players who served as Santa's assistants.

Students also had a chance to sit on Santa's lap for a photo opportunity, along with some of the parents at the surprise event that got the schoolchildren all excited and eager for a week.

"We're used to having the Saipan Soccer School visit us each month for some drills. But this event is special because it's the holidays and it teaches the kids about the value of giving, particularly during this season," said Kasy Santos, one of the teachers at the center.

Santos said the center is very appreciative and grateful to the

Saipan Soccer School for providing the children the experience to learn new skills as well as giving them Christmas goodies.

A simple thank you is not enough, according to Santos, that's why the students from each class presented Saipan Soccer School, led by Jerry Tan and Eli Arago, with handmade posters and cards that express their gratitude to their visitors.

Arago said that this is the second consecutive year that the school distributed gifts at the center.

"Seeing the smiles of these children brings a different kind of joy that makes all our efforts worth it. Christmas is really for the children and we're really happy to give them gifts. It's not the worth of the gifts that matters but the gesture," he told Saipan Tribune.

Mae Ito, Saipan Soccer School staffer, said it took them one whole day to assemble the gift bags for the children, and seeing the children's smiles brightened their days.

"This event feels great because it reminds you of what Christmas really means," Ito added.

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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS



# USAO collects \$1.7 million in FY 2012

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco said Wednesday that the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands collected \$1,735,238 in fiscal year 2012 related to criminal and civil actions. Of this amount, \$279,550.21 was collected in criminal actions and \$1,455,688.74 was collected in civil actions. Additionally, the office collected \$316,428.00 in asset forfeitures.



Limtiaco

Nationwide, the U.S. Attorney's offices collected \$13.1 billion in criminal and civil actions during fiscal 2012, more than doubling the \$6.5 billion collected in fiscal 2011. A portion of this amount, \$5.3 billion, was collected in shared cases in which one or more U.S. Attorney's offices or department litigating divisions were also involved. The \$13.1 billion represents more than six times the appropriated budget of the combined 94 offices for fiscal 2012.

"During this time of economic recovery, these collections are more important than ever," said Limtiaco. "The U.S. Attorney's Office is dedicated to protecting the public and recovering funds for the federal treasury and for victims of federal crime. We will continue to hold accountable those who seek to profit from their illegal activities."

During fiscal 2012, the District of Guam collected over \$111,000 from local tax returns. This amount was collected from federal debtors via a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Guam Department of Revenue & Taxation for the offset of local tax returns (Offset Program). The Offset Program was initiated in 2010. These

debts include restitution to crime victims that have remained unpaid, some dating as early as 1989. In many cases, the Offset Program has been the only meaningful source for collection of restitution. Guam is the first district nationwide to have an agreement with a local tax authority for the direct offset of local tax returns. The District of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be the second district, with its Offset Program with the CNMI Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation, being implemented in the upcoming months.

The District of Guam also collected \$250,000 from local construction companies as settlement of the civil fraud case *United States v. Lucky Dragon Development Co., Ltd., et al.* The \$250,000 will be applied toward unpaid wages owed to H2 workers from China in a related 2003 Consent Judgment in *Chao v. Ningbo Construction and Industrial Group, et al.*

The U.S. Attorneys' Offices, along with the department's litigating divisions, are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed the U.S. and criminal debts owed federal crime victims. Statistics indicate that the total amount collected in criminal actions totaled \$3.035 billion in restitution, criminal fines, and felony assessments. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is paid directly to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the department's

Crime Victims' Fund, which distributes the funds to state victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

The statistics also indicate that \$10.12 billion was collected by the U.S. Attorneys' offices in individually and jointly handled civil actions. The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases, in which the United States recovered government money lost to fraud or other misconduct or collected fines imposed on individuals and/or corporations for violations of federal health, safety, civil rights or environmental laws. In addition, civil debts were collected on behalf of several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Internal Revenue Service, and Small

Business Administration.

Additionally, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, working with partner agencies and divisions, collected \$4.389 billion in asset forfeiture actions in fiscal 2012. Forfeited assets are deposited into the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund and Department of Treasury Forfeiture Fund and are used to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes.

The \$13.16 billion collected nationwide by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for 2012 nearly matches the \$13.18 billion collected in 2010 and 2011 combined.

For further information, the United States Attorneys' Annual Statistical Reports can be found on the Internet at [http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading\\_room/foiamanuals.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading_room/foiamanuals.html). (USAO)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wishing our son Jonah T. Reyes a happy, happy birthday as he celebrates his 13th birthday today. Wishing you all the happiness and joy as you celebrate your special day, with wishes for many, many more blessed and happy years to come. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, the boyz, Grandma, and your families and friends.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Rachelle Layan Mungwaath, who celebrated her special day on Dec. 15! We hope you had a joyous and wonderful birthday! May God bless you and we love you! Greetings come from Richelle, Ivan, and your family of the Finasisu troops from the oldest to the youngest!

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 17, 2001

### Senate committee debates OPM chief's confirmation

Opinions remain split at the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation over the appointment of Personnel Officer Norbert S. Sablan, in the run-up to a Senate confirmation hearing set this Thursday. Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig has expressed support for Sablan, saying he thinks that Sablan is capable and qualified to handle the job. "For me, I will support him because I've seen his qualification and I think he is capable of taking on the job," Atalig said Friday. Sen. Jose Dela Cruz, however, said that he will defer to Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano's stance in the matter. "Whatever Senator Adriano says goes," was his short comment. Adriano and Dela Cruz are both members of the Tinian senatorial delegation.

### Hopwood says no to drugs

The Hopwood Junior High School community believes that acknowledging its existence is the first step that should be taken to effectively solve the campus' drug problems. Principal David Borja, during Hopwood's annual Drug Free March Friday, conceded that staging the anti-drug rally is one way of showing the school's efforts in combating the serious social and health threat especially affecting its young students. "To me, it's very important that we continue to make a very public and open statement to the community. It is our small of saying that we need to do something about the drug use, and the prevention of family and domestic violence. It's important that we communicate that we are part of the community and we need their help," said Borja.

Dec. 17, 2002

### NMIRF forced to dip into investments

With the CNMI government failing to meet its payment obligations to the Northern Marianas Islands Retirement Fund, the Fund has been forced to dip into its principal investments to insure that retirees' benefit checks were paid. Fund officials disclosed this in a December 13 letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, where they asked the Governor for a meeting so they could map out a plan on how the government can meet its monthly obligations to the Fund. Board of Trustees chairman Joseph C. Reyes, vice chairman Thomas I. Saures, and Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes told the Governor that, faced with a financial crisis, the Fund was forced to liquidate some of its investments just so they could pay off their pensioners.

### Humanitarian spirit shines in NMI

The spirit of humanitarianism reigned on Saipan over the weekend with hundreds of residents and even tourists generously donating all the relief items they could spare for the benefit of supertyphoon victims on Rota and Guam. Kind-hearted families and individuals offered foodstuffs, sleeping amenities and other necessities at drop-off booths set up by the House of Representatives and the Legislative Bureau throughout Saipan since Saturday. Volunteer relief workers from the government were awed by the overwhelming response that the special project-dubbed "Saipan Cares"-drew from the community.

Dec. 17, 2003

### Babauta OKs recruitment deal with POEA

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has approved the proposed recruitment agreement between the Department of Public Health and the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency. "I've signed it (Monday)," said Babauta. This, even as authorities said that acceptance of applicants for the Commonwealth Health Center by the POEA has actually been taking place pending the signing of the final draft. According to the DPH spokesman, John P. Douglas, a team from the department has left for Manila to do the screening of the applicants. This, amid some criticisms that the agreement would be illegal since it lacks the approval of the CNMI Legislature.

### Cohen: Investment confab results won't be immediate

Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Interior David B. Cohen said Monday that his office is now busy doing follow-up work on investors who had expressed interest during last September's investment conference in Washington D.C. He conceded, though, that the process-and results-could take some time, as investment decisions have to go through the corporate tier of command. "I know that a number of the presentations were well received, especially on education, and we had a subsequent follow-up in Tokyo, where we attempted to entice Japanese investors to invest in the CNMI," he said. "But it's a long process. Investment decisions are not made overnight."



## PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its **4th Quarter Meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room, San Antonio Saipan.** This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - Roll Call
  - Presence of a Quorum
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Meeting Minutes
    - o October 05, 2012
- II. Member Orientation
  - Roles and Responsibilities
- III. Election of Officers
- IV. FFY 2011 Annual Performance Report
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margarita Aldan  
Chairperson

/s/ Robin Palacios  
Interim Coordinator,  
Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds



## PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its **4th Quarter Meeting on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Public School System Board of Education Conference Room, Bwughos Street, Susupe Saipan.** This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - Roll Call
  - Presence of a Quorum
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Meeting Minutes
    - o October 04, 2012
- II. FFY 2011 Annual Performance Report
- III. Next Steps
- IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frank Rabauliman  
Vice-Chairperson

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama  
Director,  
Special Education Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds





## GES' new student council officers take oath of office

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School officially inducted its new student council officers Wednesday last week, with Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro administering the oath of office for the new officers and their advisers.

The new officers' term will run through the school year.

This year, sixth grader John Jacob Canape was elected as the organization's president along with newly elected vice president Royce Angelo Ben, a sixth grader; public information officer Leonardo Salalila, another sixth grader; and the council's new secretary, fifth grader Keoni Fitipol.

The new officers will be guided by the organization's Stuco adviser-teachers Cenon Ayuman, Walter Mendez, Evelyn Alarcon, and counselor/chapter adviser Derwin Johnson.

In an interview with *Saipan*

*Tribune*, Canape vowed to practice good leadership for his peers. "I feel Stuco is important for the school because students have strong imagination to change something or fix a problem. We students are important because the staff and teachers need our help to make our school a safe, cleaner, and great place to learn," he said.

On top of his priority this year is bullying on campus. "We really want to help each other and tackle bullying at school. Bullying is one of the major problems around the world. We need to help each other make good and responsible choices. We also want more parents to help out and be more involved in school activities," he added.

Student leaders at GES are chosen by the student body every year. They come up with ideas and strategies to help make the Garapan school a safer, cleaner, and fun environment for learning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newly elected leaders of the Garapan Elementary School Student Council have their picture taken with Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro after their induction ceremony on campus Wednesday morning.



### NOTICE OF MEETING Northern Marianas College Board Of Regents' Regular Meeting

**Date:** Friday, December 21, 2012  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Place:** Northern Marianas College  
BOR Conference Room  
Saipan Campus

#### AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order (9:30a.m - 9:50a.m.)**
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
  - c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
    1. November 09, 2012 Continued on November 13, 2012 - Regular Meeting
- II. Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. (9:50a.m - 10:00a.m)
- III. Board Chair's Remarks (10:00a.m. - 10:10a.m.)**
- IV. WASC Accreditation Update (10:10a.m - 10:30a.m.)**
- V. Old Business**
  - a. Performance Evaluation of the NMC President (10:30a.m - 11:00a.m.)
  - b. BOR Committee Structure
  - c. Board Policy for Consideration - First Reading (11:00a.m - 11:30a.m.)
    1. Repeal of old Board Policies - Student Services (Action Item)
    2. Repeal of old Board Policies - Human Resources (Action Item)
    3. Repeal of old Board Policies - Finance and Procurement (Action Item)

Lunch Break 11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.

- d. Board Policy for Consideration - Second Reading (1:00p.m. - 1:30p.m.)
  1. Board Policy No. 401 - Residency Classification (Action Item)
  2. Board Policy No. 402 - Student Health Insurance (Action Item)
  3. Board Policy No. 206.3 - Budget, Audit and Finance Committee (Action Item)
  4. Board Policy No. 203.1 - President's Authority and Responsibilities (Action Item)
  5. Board Policy No. 206 - Policy Introduction, Amendment, Passage & Suspension (Action Item)
- VI. New Business (1:30p.m - 1:45p.m.)**
  - a. Presidential Goals for FY2013
  - b. Request to support the construction of a Medical School
- VII. Legislative Update (1:45p.m - 1:50p.m.)**
- VIII. Reports (1:50p.m - 2:50p.m.)**
  - a. President's Report
    1. Associated Students of Northern Marianas College (ASNMC)
    2. Staff Senate
    3. Faculty Senate
  - b. Dean of Administration Report
  - c. Program Highlights - Math Programs
  - d. BOR Standing Committees
    1. Budget and Finance Committee
    2. Program Committee
    3. AdHOC Committees
- IX. Board Annual Self-Evaluation (2:50p.m - 3:50p.m.)**

**X. Executive Session (4:00p.m - 5:00p.m.)**  
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

**XI. Upcoming Board Activities (5:00p.m.)**

1. Schedule Next Regular Meeting

**XII. Adjournment**

/s/Juan T. Lizama  
BOR Chairperson

Date: December 12, 2012



### NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NMC13-001

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposal from qualified firms as an "Independent Auditor" to perform a financial and compliance audit for the College.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, December 04, 2012, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., January 4th, 2013,** at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho ([anitac@nmnet.edu](mailto:anitac@nmnet.edu)).

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision aof proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho  
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao  
Dean of Administration



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of Executive Director

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-011

#### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-011, supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 08, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Acting Executive Director



### ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

#### Job Vacancy Announcement

#### DIETITIAN (01)

This position will be under the direct supervision of the Medical Director and must be able to do the following:

- Provides comprehensive nutritional evaluation and counseling services for dialysis patients and staff.
- Provides goal oriented intervention directed toward management of ESRD disease by education of the patient in renal diet and fluid intake management.
- Maintains a close working relationship with the multi-disciplinary ESRD team of dialysis in planning for patients care and attends departmental staff meetings.
- Attends facility in-services, meetings and provides educational programs requested.
- Documents all tasks thoroughly in patient's medical records to maintain dietary records and statistics.
- Establishes yearly goals with Medical Director/Unit manager in relations to specialty program/service.
- Assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of dietary policies and procedures.
- Initiates and/or participates in patient education and treatment programs, such as developing dietary educational materials.
- Participates in professional and other community organizations and activities serving clientele.
- Performs all other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience:

- Holds a baccalaureate or advance degree in food and nutrition or dietetics.
- Has at least one year experience in clinic nutrition.
- Good interpersonal/communication skills.
- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic, at Chalan Kiya or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at [hpcshc@pticm.com](mailto:hpcshc@pticm.com).



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXII, Issue No. 292Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Horror in Connecticut



AP

In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead a line of children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 after a shooting at the school.

All of Connecticut is horrified by the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. What madness could drive someone to open fire on schoolchildren, let alone the people who care for them every day?

Hearts everywhere go out to the Newtown victims, their families and the community. This is devastating, numbing, anguish-inducing news.

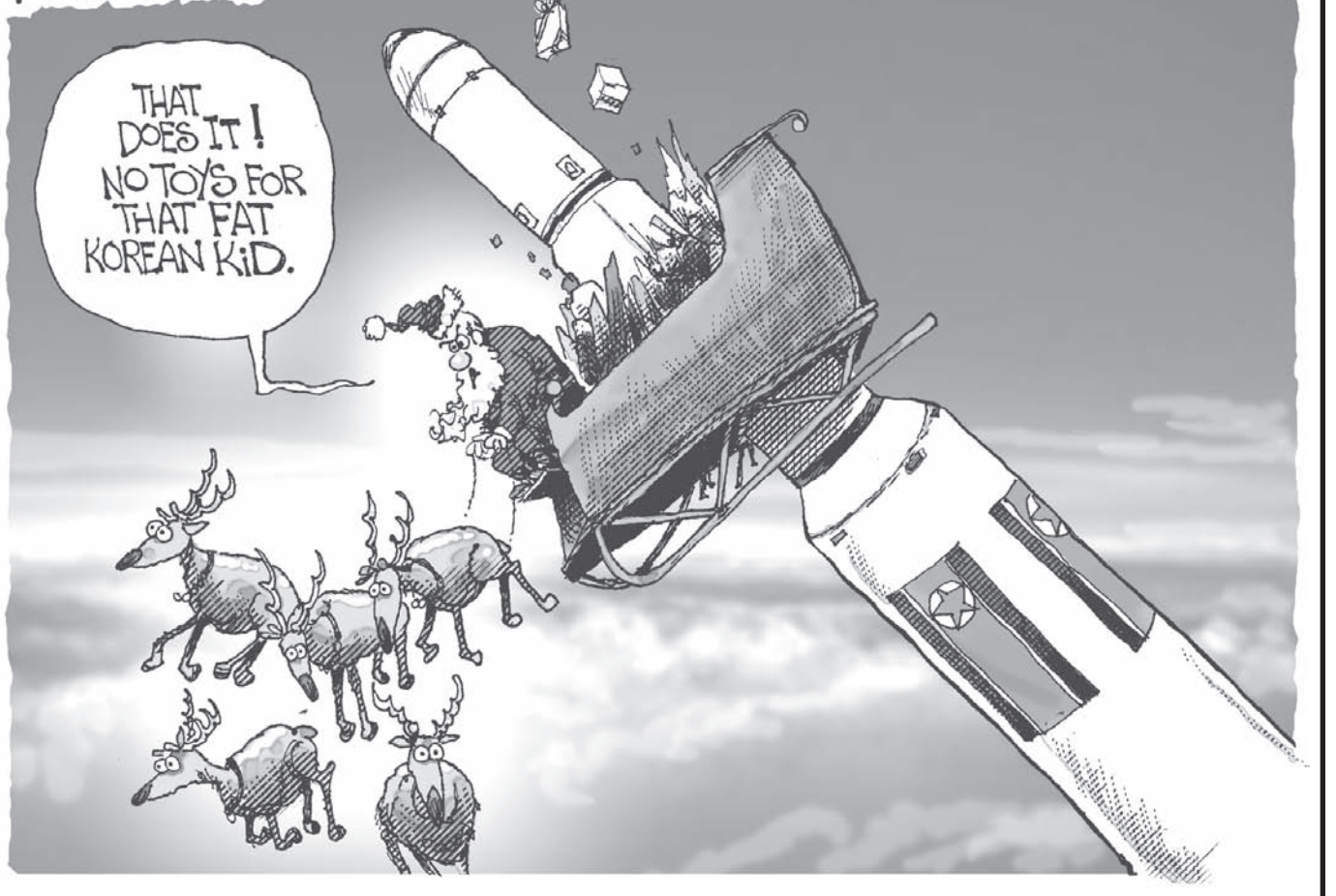
» **Ceaseless incidents are America's sorrow**

It is each time we hear it. And Americans hear it far too often. Earlier this week, an unhinged young man shot two people dead at the Clackamas Town Center mall in Oregon.

Gun violence is a constant companion of the residents of Connecticut's cities. The state still carries the collective memory of the lottery shootings in Newington in March 1998, when a disgruntled employee killed four co-workers, and the 2010 rampage at Hartford Distributors, in which nine people died.

Americans may argue about whether their country is dominated by a pro-gun culture. But this much is certain, attested to by the Newtown school shooting: It is far too easy in America for a sick mind to find a gun and use it.

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## Guns

The Sandy Hook incident in Newton, Connecticut had our President drop a tear and lowered the flags of the nation at half-staff. In a shooting rampage reportedly by one of the Lanza brothers (Ryan was the first suspect, now he is talking to police about his brother Adam, who might have a neural disorder), 28 people were killed, 20 of them children. The school has students from kindergarten to fourth grade.

Two hundred twenty-one years ago, Dec. 15, 1791, the United States Congress passed the Bill of Rights. The Second Amendment is worded, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." The first comma is missing in the version ratified by the States. No matter, the right to bear arms is the intent of the amendment.

During America's revolutionary period, there were many reasons to protect one's right to bear arms. Wikipedia lists the following in no particular order: deterring tyrannical government, repelling invasion, suppressing insurrection, facilitating a natural right of self-defense, participating in law enforcement, and enabling the people to organize a militia system. The image of the Minuteman in Lexington, MA is in every American's mental playground!

In my social process scheme of the economic, political, and cultural dynamics, the impetus for the legislation in the political was the desire to maintain domestic tranquility. Case law has since evolved to define that right, and to this day, the right to bear arms remains a U.S. constitutional right fervently defended by the powerful Vienna, VA-based NRA.

In light of the recent assault on the American consciousness brought about by the Sandy Hook incident, preceded by the Oregon mall, Aurora cinema, and the Columbine rampage, we must once again raise the issue of individual rights up before the mirror of social responsibility. Surely, the question of securing domestic tranquility has gone way beyond the capabilities of handguns and assault weapons, but in our cultural heritage is a deeply seated defense of the "gun culture," from Paul Revere's alert of the Red Coat's heading to Concord's armory, to our Texan's ever vigilant call to remember the Alamo.

A country that spends half of its discretionary budget on defense spending is not too distant from a culture of mass destruction. Defense right (in the language of homeland security) is foisted as a rationale to maintaining order, domestically and globally, in an unruly universe, by the self-appointed police of the world. The metaphors of competition, conflict, and war remain as the primary image of our social discourse.

On the personal level, one of our own Saipan residents, after his home and his diminutive wife were assaulted by an intruder, opined on the "draconian gun ban" in the CNMI. He wrote in the ST in 2010: "Gun ownership in the United States of America is a right, not a privilege. Owning a car is a privilege. Owning a cell phone

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



is a privilege, Internet access... a privilege, having Cable TV... a privilege... Self-defense is a right!"

Our sympathies are with the writer. We do note that any gun ban in American territory has been observed in the breach rather than the rule. My impression of how authorities handle handguns and assault weapons in their personal capacities is not a favorable one. The traffic of guns in the Pacific reportedly occurs in the confluence of criminal elements under legal cover.

Individual rights are always weighed in the context of social responsibility. The historical context to guns in America is domestic tranquility, and that cannot be maintained and sustained by simply allowing citizens the right to bear arms. In fact, the record holds the reverse. Believing that access to tools to inflict fatal solution on unwanted intrusions has only been exploited by the malcontents against the unwary, and the innocents are known to suffer.

We think of the British ban on guns and the unarmed bobby of London. The Yakuza, known to inflict muscle on the strength of the bullet, has not been deterred by Japan's banning of the handguns, a reason often used to returning the right to bear arms back to Nippon's citizens. The throng of Japanese tourists in shooting galleries on Saipan and all throughout the Pacific (Waikiki hand bills shows bikini-clad girls holding rifles) shows a native fascination with guns in Japan since Commodore Perry alighted on its shores.

In 2008, figures reveal that of the 12,000 homicide cases involving handguns in the U.S., there were 11 in Japan. The U.S. has the loosest restriction in owning handguns in the world! Japan holds one of the strictest. There were two handgun-related homicides reported last year.

What is clear to me is to have a national and local conversation on the second amendment, then move it into every family's dining table (Kilili's office might want to get some figures from the CNMI's experience in aid of legislation). If guns remain as the toy of choice (because they are cheap as well as preferred) under the Christmas tree this season, then we further the culture of guns in a manner as casually as we hold motherhood and apple pie.

In China's latest assault on schoolchildren, 22 were reported to have been slashed with the knife. Just think if the despairing culprit had a gun!



# Ha’anen gupot giya Marianas

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Dos patte tana’ senpresisu gi ha’anen sumen ma’gas na gupot: Misan Gayu yan dinaña familia gi ha’anen Noche Buena. Megai man-hinalulula gi bespiran Noche Buena para u fañaunau man-managam nu i Niño Jesus.

Gi sigiente dia un’ ma’gas na okasion ‘nai guaha dinaña familia yan inefresen satton na felisitasion gi entre todos. Este na dinaña ‘nai mas masimientu inafamauleg yan inagoflie’ gi entre membron familia siha. Sumen namagof na okasion esta i finagpu i Tres Reyes.

Un’ okasion lokue’ ‘nai mafattu mahalañgta gi man-hanau esta na mañainata ni pumipet hit mona estake man-echu hit tautau. Megai na sakrifisiu ya hita ni tumahgue obligasion niha lumilili’e’ haf’ finapos niha estake todū man-felis.

Ta abiba dinaña familia yan lokue’ tinayuyot para i man-ginacha’ triste na biahen Noche Buena pot guaha dimalas gi familia. Mit gra-

sias lokue’ para i mañainata ni kumayon yan krumeansa hit estake felis hinanau kada unu. Sin ditension: Felis Noche Buena!

■ ■ ■

## Finenina yan uttimu regalu

Gi finagpu’ Misan Gayu, ha na’e’ ham si nanan mame dikiki’ na balutan kada unu. Guiya ayu i finenina yan uttimu na regaluña nu hame. Uttimu pot megai manginacha’ taya’ cho’chu’ dispues gi tini-laikan i Navy yan Interior. Sumen chatsaga i tanu’.

Kanaha todū sentadan mame lamayot patte ginen i gualu’, halom tanu’ yan tasi. Diariu gi gualu’ esta i minachum atdau. Gi uttimun semana, in’ apprubecha mañaunau man-chenchulu pot para bai’n tulaika i sabot kechap yan asiga.

Ayu na krineansa kabales hafanu’e ham na debi un’ masahalume maseha haf’ diniseha’ mu. Taya manana’e regalu gi hilu’ platun kulot salape’. Debi un’ fachuchu’e! Este sumoyu’ ham numa’e’ animu deste chatagmag esta’i oran deskansu.

Gi hilu’ todū este siha na mattiru yan rinegan agradesiyun na grasia siha ‘nai man-malulog ham diariu. Ya maseha makat, ni unu sumeha gi haf’ debi u eyag pot lina’la’. Maseha uttimu regalu ginen i sinantusan na nanan mame, guiya fumanu’e ham gi hilu pinasensia yan pineble na guaha mas mandispopone ya ti umahñau u fattu regaluña. Enfin, todū manfelis hinanau mame.

■ ■ ■

## Marimotken tradision

Gi todū tres islas, Saipan, Tinian yan Luta, ha bira siha tatte i familia gi usun foggun ‘sino kusinan sanhiyuñg pot mampos guaguan i apas kandet.

Ti baba na disision. Dispues, hagas usun natibu foggun hayu ‘nai mas paire i masan hinegsa’ yan totche. Siña lokue’ un usa i hilu’ foggun para unna’ inasune entre guihan yan katne kulan mohon matala’. Pega ‘an pupueñge. Gi sigiente dia listu para

umatunu ‘sino ma-afflitu.

Repara sa’ kanaha’ todū mattiru uttimoña ta ibira hit tatte gi hagas modun linala’ natibu. Buente kulan ñañgun na notisia para ta ta’lun umatan para manu hit. Konbiñiente i modetnu na modun linala’, lau mas hagas fitme yan aseguru lokue i hagas kustumbreta.

## Finagpo’ I Tanu’

‘Nos kuantos grupu umatrebi siha prumedikta i hinekog i tanu’. Esta pa’gu gagaige ha’ i tanu’. I uttimu na mapredikta 21 Disiembre pa’gu na sakan. Gagaige ha’ i tanu’!

Deste mahatsan templu yan usun mas kalagtus nakuentas yan i atdau mana’ fan setbe gi makatkulan hinekog i tanu. Ni unu dinanche hombre man-gagaige hit ha’ esta pagu na ora.

Buente kulan tane’ giya siha i mahusgan kalendario yan haf’ mantuge’ pot este na sinisede. Lastima todū i animon sin probechu.

Yangin guaha hinimidde, pues siempre masoda hafa ilelegña i santa biblia pot hinekog i tanu. Gaige gi taftaf na patte gi papa’ Genesis na Si Yuus Tata solu tumuñgu’ este na asunto. Ni Si Yuus Lahiña ti hasañgane pot hinekog i tanu’.

Huñgan guaha man-sañgan siha gi otrū patten biblia haf’ para u fan masusede. Lau repara ha’ lokue’ sa’ ni unabes ‘nai mamensiona ñgai’an sessu i finagpu’ i tanu’. Haf’ hu sasañgan?

Sotta i asunto sa’ klaru na unu ha’ tumuñgu’ i hinekog i tanu’ ya soluke muna’ hanau si Yuus Tata tentagu’ pot deklarasion este na asunto, hinimidde mas propiu para hita.

■ ■ ■

Uma-apatte dos sake gi halom simenteyu ni sinaken niha rasimon pugua’. Guaha lokue dos sake madibibidi sinaken niha gi ge’hiyuñg. Gi uttimu, ilegña un’ saken sanhalom, “Pa’gu ayu i dos guihe huyuñg ta a-unu”. Esta pa’gu i saken sanhiyuñg malalagu ha’ maseha manu.

# We don’t need a bad ‘grand bargain’

**By SARITA GUPTA**  
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

In the 2012 elections, the American people voted for strengthening our economy and putting people back to work. “We’re all in this together” defeated “You’re on your own.” Or so we thought.

It seems that since Nov. 6, many politicians forgot that the people they represent used their voice at the polls to stand up for working families and the programs they rely on. Democratic lawmakers should resist any “grand bargain” on the budget that protects the wealthy at the expense of the rest of us.

There’s a palpable sense of urgency being manufactured inside the beltway to rush lawmakers into striking a budget deal, but a grand bargain is neither inevitable nor necessary. The best way to solve America’s debt crisis is to fix our revenue crisis, and we can do that quickly by ending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent and creating jobs to get our economy moving again.

Working families cannot afford any more cuts when wages are stagnant and poverty is increasing. Economic growth has been too slow, consumer demand is too weak, and average families are tightening their belts while corporate profits are soaring to historic highs.

By pursuing this bargain, Congress is having the wrong discussion about the wrong policy prescriptions at the wrong time. The truth is that the people hawking a “compromise” are wealthy corporate CEOs hiding behind the “Fix the Debt” campaign.

A recent Institute for Policy Studies report found that 63 publicly held companies whose CEOs are pushing these bad deals stand to gain as much as \$134 billion in windfalls if one of their

proposals are approved. It’s time those corporations ante up and pay their fair share.

If we allow the Bush tax cuts for earners of \$250,000 and above to simply expire, we save \$1 trillion over 10 years and make a critical dent in our federal deficit. Instead of cutting the jobs and entitlements of working class Americans, we need to ask the wealthy to pay a little bit more.

We can’t let corporate America undo the results of the election. Working people won’t take that lying down. And Democrats should hold their ground.

The grand bargain is a grand swindle.

*Sarita Gupta is the executive director of American Rights at Work and Jobs with Justice and the co-director of the Caring Across Generations campaign. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# In defense of Joey San Nicolas

I first met Attorney General Joey San Nicolas in court when I witnessed him making a closing argument while he was working as a public defender approximately eight years ago. I was so impressed with his argument, and more importantly, his calm courtroom demeanor that I had to speak to him and congratulate him on the fine job he had done, even though he lost. He was recently criticized for exhibiting this same demeanor in a recent television interview. It was suggested that because he was so calm, and did not commit to extraditing former attorney general Ed Buckingham that he was simply the governor’s minion.

Two things are problematic with this. First of all, many people, myself included, do not interview well on television, especially if they do not have a great deal of experience in dealing with the press. An individual’s competence should not be judged based upon a single television interview. Second, to maintain a calm demeanor in the face of angry politicians screaming for the head of Ed Buckingham is, I think, commendable. We do not need an angry cowboy, galloping along on his white horse and screaming “Yeeha” as he blindly tries to appease the angry masses with tough talk, sitting as our attorney general.

Please, do not think that I am defending Ed Buckingham’s actions in signing and approving the \$190 million power generation contract, or for Mr. Buckingham’s political advocacy while in office. I also am not advocating against Mr. Buckingham’s extradition and his forced return to Saipan. But bringing us the head of Ed Buckingham simply to appease those who are screaming for it may not be the only option we have, and it may not be the best option. In recent impeachment hearings, how many individuals did we see hailed before the Legislature, to simply exercise their right to remain silent and “taking the fifth.” If Mr. Buckingham is brought back in chains to the CNMI to face criminal charges, can we expect Mr. Buckingham will act any differently? Will we then ever get information on what really happened behind closed doors in the execution of that contract? Perhaps this is something the attorney general is still

considering, and is therefore unwilling to commit to any particular action at this time.

None of us really know what Mr. San Nicolas will do relative to Mr. Buckingham, or what kind of attorney general he will be. One thing is certain. He is not Ed Buckingham. He has shown himself willing and able to delegate duties and tasks, which is an important and necessary attribute, for which he has also been unfairly criticized. I do know that Mr. San Nicolas will be able and willing to listen to the attorneys working under him and will openly receive and consider their advice. I also have faith that he has the intelligence and wisdom to properly consider that advice and to do the right thing, and not simply be a knee-jerk reactionary, shooting from the hip, and talking tough talk. Let’s give him a chance, before we become so critical.

## Stephen J. Nutting

*Law Office of Stephen J. Nutting  
Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe*

# Gas prices

I travel to Guam quite a bit and have noticed that the price of gas there is \$4.77 per gallon, while here at home, it’s a whopping \$5 per gallon. That’s a difference of approximately 23 cents. I previously noticed that the usual price difference is about 10 cents. I’m hoping that the Legislature takes note of this and does something about it. That’s a huge discrepancy in gas prices.

If it’s that much of a difference between Guam and Saipan, I can only imagine what it must be like on Rota and Tinian.

I am respectfully requesting that our elected officials look into this and do something about this price gouging in gas prices.

## Michael Geisinger

*As Lito, Saipan*

# The common good

Mr. Brian Rogets’ letter on “Poverty wages for college graduates” is an interesting and mind boggling dilemma of public policy.

The case in point stressed by Mr. Rogets’ letter begs the question: Why would a competent college graduate with a degree in accounting accept and value a \$7 an hour accountant job? This level of remuneration for this type of job is unreal in any part of the United States. And I think that was the point of Mr. Rogets’ lesson to his students.

Certainly, the students were outraged by this revelation but the disappointment has far-reaching implications as this practice spill over to other professional jobs that are similarly situated. The real question here, if this is a real social problem, is who is responsible for doing something about it and finding the best solution so that students like those in Mr. Rogets’ class would be satisfied and count on their future value if they pursue professional jobs that are paid well in the CNMI? Let’s open this matter for serious deliberation and thoughtful assessment of public policy between lawmakers, principals in government, and the business sector in the CNMI.

Under natural law, if a person contracts with another person for money in exchange for his labor, it is perfectly acceptable if the parties agree to a contract for a \$7 an hour for a job of any kind. But society often goes beyond and imposes greater than natural law doctrine and principles on matters dealing with social justice. And this is where all of us should be focusing on, but in particular we would force the issue on those we elected to government offices as lawmakers and administering agents of laws and programs that perpetuate the public good.

So, who should be taking the lead and holding the banner on this issue? This matter is not just a passing nice-to-do list, it would demand serious attention by those in government that sees it as a real threat to the common good.

## Francisco R. Agulto






*Kannat Tabla, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 80
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 81

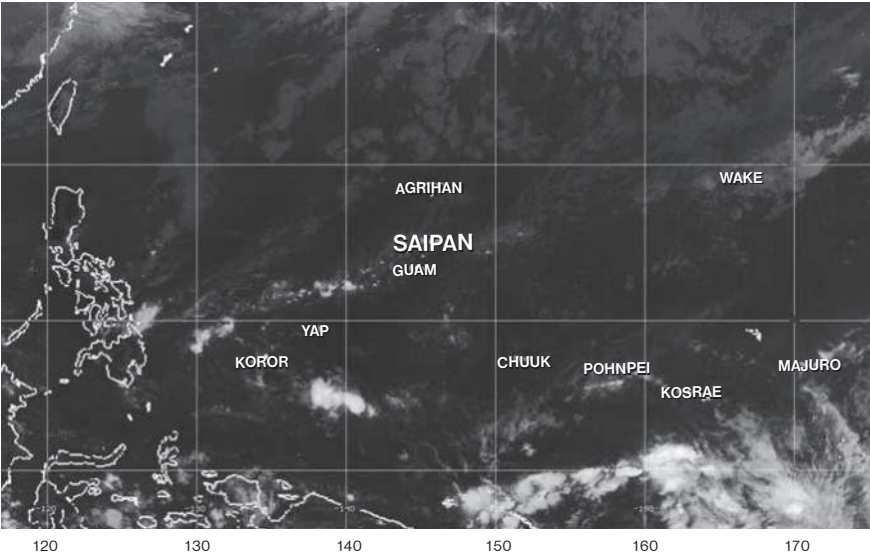
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 26 ▼ 14
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 58
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 66
New York	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 39
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 40
Paris	Showers	▲ 46 ▼ 37
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 24
Rome	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 41
Salem	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 27 ▼ 15
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 41
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 47

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N178E to 18N170E to 10N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Yap and Koror to near Guam and Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 9N131E to 12N136E to 14N146E. Enhanced convergence northeast of Wake Island is producing scattered showers up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line from 146E to 167E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N137E to EQ173E. The trough is spawning scattered showers and thunderstorms south of a line from EQ154E to 3N167E to 2N175E. Convergent low-level winds north of the trough are generating scattered showers south of Yap within 90 miles of a line from 6N137E to 4N143E. Scattered showers also exist south of Chuuk to Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 2N150E to 6N157E to 4N163E and southwest of Kwajalein within 60 miles of a line from 8N163E to 7N168E. A surface trough east of the dateline is causing scattered showers over near Majuro and Butaritari east of a line from EQ172E to 6N171E to 11N175E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:52 AM	9:53 PM
Tuesday	10:37 AM	10:48 PM
Wednesday	11:20 AM	11:40 PM
Thursday	12:00 AM	
Wednesday	12:39 PM	12:30 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3	OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7108	4:05am	5:55am	1, 3, 5	MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week	VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM
				UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# TSL Foundation delivers donations to Tinian, Rota schools

Members of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the donation arm of regional company Tan Holdings, visited the islands of Rota and Tinian on Tuesday, Dec. 11, to personally drop off the remaining "Baskets of Hope," soccer balls, notebooks, and sports equipment to the schools of Tinian Junior/Senior High School, Tinian Elementary, Sinapalo Elementary and Rita Inos Junior/Senior High School on a non-scheduled chartered flight via Arctic Air.

TSL Foundation board members Jerry Tan and Eli Arago were accompanied by Foundation staff Merlie Tolentino, Rebecca Tenorio, and TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola Jr.

"I'm so happy to have personally visited all 19 schools in the CNMI and meet the students and staff. What a wonderful experience to see each campus and interact with them," said Tan. "We were able to personally see and hear the needs of the island and intend to go back again very shortly."

Arriola said, "This was Jerry's vision since February of this year. He absolutely wanted to go to each school and meet the end users of the donation. It was quite a trip to Rota and Tinian and we wanted to thank Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, PSS staff Kimo Rosario,



Tinian Junior/Senior High School



Tinian Elementary School



Sinapalo Elementary School



Rita Inos Junior/Senior High School

all our volunteers who helped pack these Baskets of Hope, and of course our chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin, and Jerry for their support and commitment to the entire CNMI and the rest of the region."

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation would also like to thank the following people on Rota and Tinian for their assistance: Councilman Arvin Ogo, Councilman George Hocog, Rota Mayor chief of staff Tom Quitugua, school principals Eric San Nicholas, Dionne Santos, Sharleen Manglona, Daisy Quituga, PSS staff Valeria Apatang, Paterno Hocog Jr., Mario Alo, Mr. "T" Taisican, Edwina Hocog, Arctic Air personnel who assisted with the non-scheduled chartered flight to the islands: Tony Pellegrino, Paul Zak, Chris Rapugpai, Capt. Roland Mamaud, Capt. Amjad Farhoud, and the people of Tinian and Rota. (PR)



# Business

## Gasoline prices soon to hit low point for 2012

Gas prices will soon drop to their lowest level of the year.

By Monday, the national average should fall below the \$3.28 a gallon that drivers paid on Jan. 1, according to analysts. The drop is a gift for those hitting the road during what is expected to be the busiest Christmas travel season in six years.

Still, it's more like a stocking stuffer. That's because for the

second straight year, Americans will spend a record amount on gasoline. The government estimates that gas averaged \$3.63 a gallon this year, 10 cents above the record set a year ago.

Drivers can only hope that forecasts for lower prices next year come true.

A combination of high oil prices and supply shortages caused by refinery and pipe-

line problems kept gas prices elevated for most of the year. The national average hit a high of \$3.94 a gallon in early April and was around \$3.87 in September after Hurricane Isaac disrupted supplies from the Gulf Coast.

Prices in most areas have fallen since then as supplies got replenished and refiners switched to cheaper winter blends of fuel.

However, New York and New Jersey saw temporary spikes in November due to Superstorm Sandy. At \$3.77 a gallon, New York's average price is the second-highest in the nation, behind Hawaii's \$4, according to auto club AAA.

Californians continue to pay some of the highest gas prices in the U.S. But they're likely relieved to be spending an average of \$3.59 a gallon

just two months after a refinery fire and pipeline shutdown sent prices at the corner station soaring close to \$5.

The nation's lowest prices are found mostly in the lower Midwest and parts of the South. Missouri is closest to cracking the \$3 level, with its average price of \$3.01. Oklahoma, South Carolina and four other states show an average of \$3.10 a gallon or less.

AAA says 93.3 million people will travel at least 50 miles between Dec. 22 and Jan. 1, the most since 2006. So, the falling price of gas will provide a little relief to motorists, who've been digging deep for gas money all year. The average driver will pay a little less than \$2,700 for 744 gallons of gasoline this year, which will be a record, according to data from Oil Prices Information Service. **(AP)**

## Holiday shoppers may see big discounts soon

**NEW YORK (AP)**—If shoppers don't show up in stores soon, more "70 percent off" sale signs will.

After a promising start to the holiday shopping season over the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, sales have slowed, according to an analysis of data done for The Associated Press by sales tracker ShopperTrak. Worries about weak U.S. job growth and other concerns are likely to blame for Americans spending less.

That puts pressure on J.C. Penney, Macy's and other stores, which had been offering fewer discounts this season than they did last year, to step up promotions to lure shoppers like Ron Antonette from Long Beach, Calif.

Antonette so far has spent about half of what he planned to spend during this holiday season on gifts such as Legos, a Wii U game console and Apple's iPad Mini tablet computer for his two young children. Antonette stopped shopping after spending \$1,000 over fears that Congress and the White House won't reach a budget deal by January. A stalemate would trigger tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff."

"I basically stopped moving forward in buying," said Antonette, 44, who runs a small public relations business and worries that he might not be able to take mortgage deductions on his house next year. "I feel like we're in financial limbo."

Antonette isn't the only shop-

per who feels that way. Major stores don't discuss sales during the holiday shopping season, but Wal-Mart CEO Mike Duke said during a speech in New York City on Tuesday that a recent poll of shoppers of the world's largest retailer found that an overwhelming majority are aware of the threat of higher taxes. And some said it would lead them to cut back their holiday buying, he said.

Overall, holiday sales are up 2.2 percent to \$659 billion from Nov. 1 through last Saturday, according to ShopperTrak, a Chicago-based firm that tracks spending at 40,000 stores across the country. That's slightly below the 2.7 percent increase over the Thanksgiving weekend when shoppers spent \$22 billion.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Crop insurance juicy target in 'fiscal cliff' deal

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Rural lawmakers worry that \$9 billion in annual federal crop insurance subsidies are an easy target for spending cuts in a "fiscal cliff" deal so they're shopping around for a late compromise on a farm bill to protect them. The chairmen of the House and Senate Agriculture committees already were set to make a sizable contribution to deficit reduction through a new farm bill. There were \$2.3 billion in annual cuts to other farm programs and food stamps in a Senate-passed version and \$3.5 billion in annual cuts in a measure awaiting House action. But they hit an impasse

this past week while trying to merge the bills into a single package. It's the same problem confronting President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who so far are unable to come up with an alternative to the broad wave of automatic tax increases and spending cuts that begin to hit in the new year. The farm-state leaders hope that if they can agree on a farm bill, the White House and Boehner might include it as a deficit-reducing component of a broader fiscal cliff deal.

#### United Continental pilots OK joint union contract

United Airlines pilots have agreed to a new joint union contract, bringing the airline closer

to finalizing its merger with Continental. The new four-year contract, which includes raises averaging 43 percent and bigger retirement contributions, covers those who came from United as well as pilots who flew for Continental before the carriers merged in 2010 into United Continental Holdings Inc. Pilots now only fly under the United name. As part of the deal, the airline's roughly 10,000 pilots also will divide a \$400 million lump sum. In exchange, the contract gives United Continental the ability to launch a major expansion of the use of larger regional jets with 70 or more seats. Those jets, most ranging in size from 50 to 76 seats, are operated by regional airlines. **(AP)**



**Century Insurance Co., Ltd.**

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### GENERAL MANAGER

Bachelors Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves understanding of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

#### SUPERVISOR, UNDERWRITING & CLAIMS

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communications skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software Geniisys. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

#### CLAIMS OFFICER

College graduate with a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Business Management with 10 years experience in a non-life insurance company particularly in the Claims Department. Must be knowledgeable in automotive, marine, casualty, workers compensation, and property damage adjusting and estimation. Responsible for the evaluation, monitoring and adjustment of claims in accordance with company practices and procedures. Must also be knowledgeable on reinsurance and have the ability to interpret statistical information for reinsurance purposes. Must have excellent customer service skills, time management, written and oral communication skills. Must be computer literate and proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs.

#### ACCOUNTANT (3)

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours. CPA not required.

#### SYSTEM ANALYST

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance data base and program - Geniisys and an indepth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to Century Insurance Company (CIC) office at the JP Center Building - Ground Floor on Beach Road Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Wednesday, December 19, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Insurance Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

#### Storage and Distribution Supervisor

Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

#### Shipping Supervisor

Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of lading, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

#### Transportation Supervisor

Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

#### Freight Forwarding Supervisor

Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

#### Shipping and Receiving Clerk (6)

Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

#### Truck Mechanic

Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

#### Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

#### Cargo and Freight Agent (5)

Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

#### Specialized Truck Driver (6)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

#### Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

#### Automotive Body Repairer

Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

#### Janitor

Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to [hrd@ctsispn.com](mailto:hrd@ctsispn.com) not later than December 21, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



Nation

Conn. gunman broke in, shot kids multiple times

**NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)**—The gunman behind the Connecticut elementary school massacre stormed into the building and shot 20 children at least twice with a high-powered rifle, executing some at close range and killing adults who tried to stop the carnage, authorities said Saturday.

He forced his way into the school by breaking a window, officials said. Asked whether the children suffered, Chief Medical Examiner Dr. H. Wayne Carver paused. “If so,” he said, “not for very long.”

The terrible details about the last moments of young innocents emerged as authorities released their names and ages—the youngest 6 and 7, the oldest 56. They included Ana Marquez-Greene, a little girl who had just moved to Newtown from Canada; Victoria Soto, a 27-year-old teacher who apparently died while trying to hide her pupils; and principal Dawn Hochsprung, who authorities said lunged at the gunman in an attempt to overtake him and paid with her life.

The tragedy has plunged Newtown into mourning and added the picturesque New England community of hand-

some Colonial homes, red-brick sidewalks and 27,000 people to the grim map of towns where mass shootings in recent years have periodically reignited the national debate over gun control but led to little change.

Faced with the unimaginable, townspeople sadly took down some of their Christmas decorations and struggled Saturday with how to go on. Signs around town read, “Hug a teacher today,” “Please pray for Newtown” and “Love will get us through.”

“People in my neighborhood are feeling guilty about it being Christmas. They are taking down decorations,” said Jeannie Pasacreta, a psychologist who was advising parents struggling with how to talk to their children.

School board chairwoman Debbie Leidlein spent Friday night meeting with parents who lost children and shivered as she recalled those conversations. “They were asking why. They can’t wrap their minds around it. Why? What’s going on?” she said. “And we just don’t have any answers for them.”

The tragedy brought forth soul-searching and grief around the globe. President Barack Obama planned to visit Newtown on Sunday. Families as far away as Puerto Rico planned funerals for victims who still had their baby teeth, world leaders extended condolences, and vigils were held around the U.S.

“Next week is going to be horrible,” said the town’s legislative council chairman, Jeff Capeci, thinking about the string of funerals the town will face. “Horrible, and the week leading into Christmas.”

Police shed no light on what triggered Adam Lanza, 20, to carry out the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, though state police Lt. Paul Vance said investigators had found “very good evidence ... that our investigators will be able to use in painting the complete picture, the how and, more importantly, the why.” He would not elaborate.

However, another law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators have found no note or manifesto from Lanza of the sort they have come to expect after murderous rampages such as the Virginia Tech bloodbath in 2007 that left 33 people dead.

Lanza shot to death his mother, Nancy Lanza, at the home they shared, then drove to the school in her car with at least three of her guns, forced his way in and opened fire, authorities said. Within minutes, he killed 20 children, six adults and himself.

Education officials said they had found no link between Lanza’s mother and the school, contrary to news reports that said she was a teacher there. Investigators said they believe Adam Lanza attended Sandy Hook Elementary many years ago, but they had no explanation for why he went there Friday.

Authorities said Adam Lanza had no criminal history, and it was not clear whether he had a job. Lanza was believed to have suffered from a personality disorder, said a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another law enforcement official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Lanza had been diagnosed with Asperger’s, a mild form of autism often characterized by social awkwardness. People with the disorder are often highly intelligent. While they can become frustrated more easily, there is no evidence of a link between Asperger’s and violent behavior, experts say.

The law enforcement officials insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the unfolding investigation.

Richard Novia, the school district’s head of security until 2008, who also served as adviser for the school technology club, of which Lanza was a member, said he clearly “had some disabilities.”

“If that boy would’ve burned himself, he would not have known it or felt it physically,” Novia said in a phone interview. “It was my job to pay close attention to that.”

Amid the confusion and sorrow, stories of heroism emerged, including an account of Hochsprung, 47, and the school psychologist, Mary Sherlach, 56, rushing toward Lanza in an attempt to stop him. Both died.

There was also 27-year-old teacher Victoria Soto, whose name has been invoked as a portrait of selflessness and humanity among unfathomable evil. Investigators told relatives she was killed while shielding her first-graders from danger. She reportedly hid some students in a bathroom or closet, ensuring they were safe, a cousin, Jim Wiltsie, told ABC News.

“She put those children first. That’s all she ever talked about,” a friend, Andrea Crowell, told The Associated Press. “She wanted to do her best for them, to teach them something new every day.”

There was also 6-year-old Emilie Parker, whose grieving father, Robbie, talked to reporters not long after police released the names of the victims but expressed no animosity, offering sympathy for Lanza’s family.


“I can’t imagine how hard this experience must be for you,” he said.

On Saturday, Carver, the medical examiner, said that all the victims at the school were shot with a rifle, at least some of them up close, and that all were apparently shot more than once. All six adults killed at the school were women. Of the 20 children, eight were boys and 12 were girls.

Asked how many bullets were fired, Carver said, “I’m lucky if I can tell you how many I found.”

Parents identified the children through photos to spare them some shock, Carver said.

Relatives of the shooter were at a loss for words.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF  
GEOTHERMAL CONSULTING SERVICES

RFP13-GOV-024

Governor’s Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos are requesting qualifications from qualified firms according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 to provide analysis and guidance in the examination of geothermal energy on the island of Saipan.

Selected firm must be able to perform required consulting services in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI”) and will be required to: analyze existing geothermal data; develop a plan for test drilling to obtain further information; evaluate suitability of Commonwealth equipment for use in test drilling; evaluate drilling proposals; provide oversight on test drilling; and conduct analysis on results. Detailed information on required duties is provided in the Request for Proposals for Geothermal Consulting Services (“RFP”).

The RFP is available and can be obtained from at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors shown in the table below.

Element	Weight
Capacity of the firm and experience of the individuals who would be assigned to the project	30%
Proposed approach	30%
Cost	40%

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 20, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). All proposals must be sealed and marked RFP13-GOV-024 Geothermal Consulting Services Proposal on the forms provided and include an original and four copies and must be marked as: “RFP13-GOV-024 Proposal for Provision of Geothermal Consulting Services;” and be submitted no later than 10:00 AM, Friday, January 18, 2013 (ChST) to:


Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base  
P.O. Box 510008 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid (Notice of Intent to Bid). Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (Saipan Time) January 09, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and four copies of sealed proposal must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 18, 2013 (Saipan Time) and must be received no later than January 30, 2013 (Saipan Time).


The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement & Supply Division



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Wakin’s Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293  
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

**A. Filing of application.** *Saipan Surfrider, LLC*, (the “Applicant”), has filed its application with the Commonwealth Development Authority for a Qualifying Certificate under the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended (4 CMC §3301, et seq.).

**B. Address.** The address of the Applicant is *Chalan Kanoa*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**C. Proposed investment.** The Applicant intends to invest approximately \$ *12.14 million* to construct a resort hotel located at *Chalan Kanoa*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**D. Benefits sought.** The Applicant is applying for tax relief provided by the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended (4 CMC §3301, et seq.) as follows:

Nature of Tax:	Percentage Requested:	Period Requested:
<i>Developer Infrastructure Tax (abatement)</i>	100 %	25 years,
<i>Business Gross Revenue Tax (abatement)</i>	100%	25 years,
<i>Excise Tax (abatement)</i>	100 %	25 years,
<i>Alcoholic Beverage Tax (abatement)</i>	100%	25 years.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant



# Asia

## Schools and students are targets worldwide

**BEIJING (AP)**—A half-day before a young gunman committed one of the deadliest school attacks in U.S. history, a Chinese farmer took a kitchen knife and hacked at more than 20 children as they entered their rural elementary school.

Though the outcomes are different—28 dead in Connecticut, and 23 injured in China—the Friday attacks show how disturbingly frequent rampages against children and schools are. Attackers often seek out the vulnerable, hoping to amplify their outrage before they themselves often commit suicide. News of one mass killing often serves as inspiration and blueprint to other potential mass killers.

“It’s these disaffected people who are angry at the world, who plan to take out as many people as they can, and there’s some element there of notoriety,” said forensic psychologist James Ogloff of Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. “It’s a way of becoming infamous.”

Mass killings, when an individual tries to kill as many people at one time as possible, have occurred in places as far away as Switzerland, where 14 people died in a shooting spree by an unemployed man who then killed himself in 2001, to South Korea, where a police officer killed 56 people before he blew himself up in 1982. Distinct from acts of terror that have political or collective aims, other mass killers act out of personal grievances.

Attacks against schools are a bleak subset, offering easy targets for taking down large numbers of victims. Shootings at schools have periodically occurred in Finland and Germany as well as the U.S., though the American attacks have been more frequent.

China has seen more than

a half-dozen school attacks in less than three years, though the death tolls have been mostly in single digits, largely because knives have been the most-used weapon. China largely prohibits private ownership of guns.

“They choose to attack school students who are weak in defending themselves and are easily assaulted,” said Zhu Zhuohong, an associate researcher in psychology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Ogloff, the forensic psychologist who has studied both spree and serial killers in the U.S., Canada and Australia, said that a break-down in a relationship or a humiliating experience often acts as a triggering event for mass shooters. After Thomas Hamilton killed 16 kindergarteners and a teacher at an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, in 1996, reports said that he had been suspected of inappropriate behavior with boys he oversaw in a youth group and that letters he wrote talked of persecution by police and authorities for forcing him from taking part in boys clubs and for causing a business he ran to fail.

While police in Connecticut and in China have so far not given motives for Friday’s attacks, both began with single assaults. Twenty-year-old Adam Lanza first shot his mother in their home in the New England town of Newtown before driving to the nearby Sandy Hook Elementary School; armed with two handguns, he shot into two classrooms, killing 20 people and six adults and then apparently shooting himself.

Min Yingjun, a 36-year-old resident of Guangshan, an area of tea and rice farms in central China, burst into the home of an

elderly woman and stabbed her with a kitchen knife, the government’s Xinhua News Agency reported. Min then went to the Chenpeng Village Primary School, slashing at 22 students, ages 6 to 12, as they arrived for class. Seven of the students, some with severed fingers and ears, required hospitalization, Xinhua said.

Though Min did not die—he was grabbed by police at the scene and is under arrest—Zhu, the psychologist, said many mass attacks should be seen as “expanded suicide.” The attackers, often in a state of depression, believe society is malicious or unsafe and wants others to die with them, said Zhu.

Police described Min as possibly being “mentally ill,” Xinhua said, and a law enforcement official briefed on the Connecticut shooting told The Associated Press that Lanza was believed to suffer from a personality disorder. But overall, said Ogloff, very few mass shooters are mentally ill.

Most perpetrators are young men, and their common traits—an interest in the military or violence—are so widespread as to make it impossible to identify potential killers, said Ogloff. Spree shootings, he said, are increasing and becoming deadlier because each killing leaves a blueprint for others to follow.

“Imagine you’re a kid and you’re 20 years old, and you’re angry at the world and you’re fascinated with the military and you’re in a situation where you want to end your life. ... You’re influenced by all the ones who’ve gone before you,” said Ogloff, who has overseen the treatment of Martin Bryant, who shot 35 people at Port Arthur, a former penal colony and tourist site, in Tasmania in 1996.

populous south, including the capital, Suva. The storm caused widespread destruction in Samoa on Thursday. The Samoa Observer newspaper says up to 4,000 people were left homeless.

### Philippine rebels declare cease-fire in south

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Communist rebels have declared a cease-fire in the southern Philippines to allow unhampered relief and rehabilitation in provinces ravaged by a recent typhoon that killed at least 955 people and left more than 800 others missing. In a separate announcement Saturday, the military declared a nationwide Christmas holiday truce with the communist New People’s Army from Dec. 16 to Jan. 2, 2013. The Communist Party’s southern Mindanao commission says the cease-fire was to take effect from Dec. 5 through Jan. 3. The rebels did not explain the late announcement and gave no word on whether they will also observe a nationwide cease-fire. The 43-year-old Maoist insurgency is one of Asia’s longest-running. Peace talks brokered by Norway have stalled following disagreements over rebel demands to release several of their detained leaders.

# World

## Egyptians take quarrel over charter to the polls

**CAIRO (AP)**—Egyptians took their quarrel over a draft constitution to polling stations Saturday after weeks of violent turmoil between the newly empowered Islamists and the mostly liberal opposition over the future identity of the nation.

Regardless of the outcome, the heated arguments among voters standing in line signaled that the referendum over the contentious charter is unlikely to end Egypt’s worst political crisis since the revolution that ousted Hosni Mubarak nearly

two years ago.

The voting capped a nearly two-year struggle over the post-Mubarak identity of Egypt, with the latest crisis over the charter evolving into a dispute over whether Egypt should move toward a religious state under President Mohammed Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood and their ultraconservative Salafi allies, or one that retains secular traditions and an Islamic character.

Underlining the tension, some 120,000 army troops

were deployed to help the police protect polling stations and state institutions after clashes between Morsi’s supporters and opponents over the past three weeks left at least 10 people dead and about 1,000 wounded. The large-scale deployment did not stop a mob of supporters of ultraconservative cleric Hazem Salah Abu-Ismael attacking the Cairo offices of the liberal Wafd party, a member of an opposition alliance that has campaigned against the draft constitution.



Egyptians wait in line to cast their votes during a referendum on a disputed constitution drafted by Islamist supporters of President Morsi in Cairo, Egypt, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012. AP

## Iran warns Turkey over NATO’s missile system

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)**—A top Iranian military commander warned Turkey on Saturday against stationing NATO anti-missile systems on its territory, saying such a move risks conflict with Syria.

The remarks by army chief of staff Gen. Hassan Firouzabadi were carried on state TV the day after the Pentagon announced it will send two batteries of Patriot missiles and 400 troops to Turkey as part of a larger NATO force to protect Turkish territory from potential Syrian missile attacks.

Firouzabadi said the Patri-

ot deployment was aimed at protecting Israel from Iranian missile attacks and inhibit a potential Russian military defense of Syria.

“The wise and the elite in Europe, U.S. and Turkey should dismantle the Patriots and take them away from the region before a fire breaks out,” Firouzabadi was quoted as saying. “We are a friend of Turkey, we want security with Turkey, not Turkey being attacked through Syria so that they would want to deploy Patriots there.”

“Patriot missiles are a defense line for the Zionists

and a result of (the West’s) concerns over Iran’s missiles and Russia’s presence to defend Syria,” he said. “Western countries approve the deployment of Patriots on the Syria-Turkey border as they design a world war,” he said in a separate quote carried by state TV’s website.

Iran and Russia are two of Damascus’ key allies. Tehran has provided Assad with military and political backing for years, and has kept up its strong support for the regime since the Syrian uprising began in March 2011.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Rocket still centerpiece as NKoreans mourn Kim

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—North Korea’s top leadership is calling the successful launch of a satellite proof that Kim Jong Un has the strength to lead the country one year after his father’s death. A solemn Kim Jong Un joined top political, government and military officials Sunday in a national memorial service at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on the eve of the anniversary of Kim Jong Il’s death. The Associated Press was among a handful of foreign and local journalists allowed to cover the closed meeting, which marked the start of events marking Kim’s death. Armed soldiers ringed the streets outside.

#### Fiji braces for cyclone that killed 3 in Samoa

**SUVA, Fiji (AP)**—The Pacific island nation of Fiji is bracing for a cyclone that earlier ripped through Samoa, leaving at least three people dead, eight missing and thousands homeless. Fijian authorities said Sunday that nearly 400 people on the island of Vanua Levu had evacuated to emergency shelters. Cyclone Evan is expected to hit Sunday night in northern Fiji, likely missing the more

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Egypt’s ousted president slips, hits his head

**CAIRO (AP)**—An Egyptian security official says ousted president Hosni Mubarak has slipped in the bathroom in the prison where is serving a life sentence, hitting his head. The official says the ailing Mubarak, 84, was treated in Cairo’s Tora prison Saturday for head injuries and a chest bruise. He says Mubarak slipped before two months ago but did not injure himself. The report comes at a particularly

tense moment in the transition that has followed Mubarak’s 2011 overthrow, as millions of Egyptians vote in a highly contentious referendum on a draft constitution written by a mostly Islamist panel.

#### Nigeria governor, 5 others die in helicopter crash

**LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)**—A navy helicopter crashed Saturday in Nigeria’s oil-rich southern delta, killing a state governor and five other people, in the latest air disaster to hit Africa’s

most populous nation, officials said. Nigeria’s presidency said in a statement that the governor of the central Nigerian state of Kaduna, Patrick Yakowa, died in the helicopter crash in Bayelsa state in the Niger Delta. The former national security adviser, General Andrew Azazi, also died in the crash, the statement said. Azazi was fired in June amid growing sectarian violence in Nigeria, but maintained close ties with the government. The other victims were aides to Yakowa and Azazi and the two helicopter pilots, it said.



## Focus

# 'Always smiling': Portraits of Conn. victims

By MATT SEDENSKY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most died at the very start of their young lives, tiny victims taken in a way not fit for anyone regardless of age. Others found their life's work in sheltering little ones, teaching them, caring for them, treating them as their own. After the gunfire ended Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the trail of loss was more than many could bear: 20 children and six adults at the school, the gunman's mother at home, and the gunman himself.

A glimpse of some of those who died:

Olivia Engel, 6, student

The images of Olivia Engel will live far beyond her short lifetime. There she is, visiting with Santa Claus, or feasting on a slice of birthday cake. There's the one of her swinging a pink baseball bat, and another posing on a boat. In some, she models a pretty white dress, in others she makes a silly face.

Dan Merton, a longtime friend of the girl's family, says he could never forget the child, and he has much to say when he thinks of her.

"She loved attention," he said. "She had perfect manners, perfect table manners. She was the teacher's pet, the line leader."

On Friday, Merton said, she was simply excited to go to school and return home and make a gingerbread house.

"Her only crime," he said, "is being a wiggly, smiley 6-year-old."

Victoria Soto, 27, teacher

She beams in snapshots. Her enthusiasm and cheer was evident. She was doing, those who

Photos of Soto show her always with a wide smile, in pictures of her at her college graduation and in mundane daily life. She looks so young, barely an adult herself. Her goal was simply to be a teacher.

"You have a teacher who cared more about her students than herself," said Mayor John Harkins of Stratford, the town Soto hailed from and where more than 300 people gathered for a memorial service Saturday night. "That speaks volumes to her character, and her commitment and dedication."

Ana Marquez-Greene, 6, student

A year ago, 6-year-old Ana Marquez-Greene was reveling in holiday celebrations with her extended family on her first trip to Puerto Rico. This year will be heartbreakingly different.

The girl's grandmother, Elba Marquez, said the child's family moved to Connecticut just two months ago, drawn from Canada, in part, by Sandy Hook's reputation. The grandmother's brother, Jorge Marquez, is

## How the shooting unfolded

The aftermath of a mass shooting in Newtown Conn., left 28 dead — 20 children and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, the gunman's mother at her home, and the gunman himself, who committed suicide. Timeline of what is known:

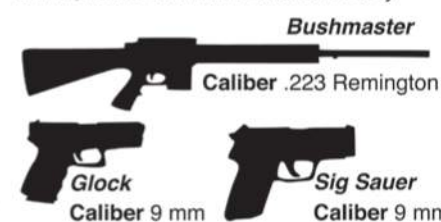
**1 Before 9:30 a.m.**  
Gunman forces way into school with two handguns and rifle

**2 Killings focused in two classrooms; victims shot multiple times with semi-automatic rifle**

### Details of shooting

**Suspect Adam Lanza, age 20; motive unknown, investigators said they have found "very good evidence"**

**Three firearms, all registered in mother's name, were found near shooter's body**



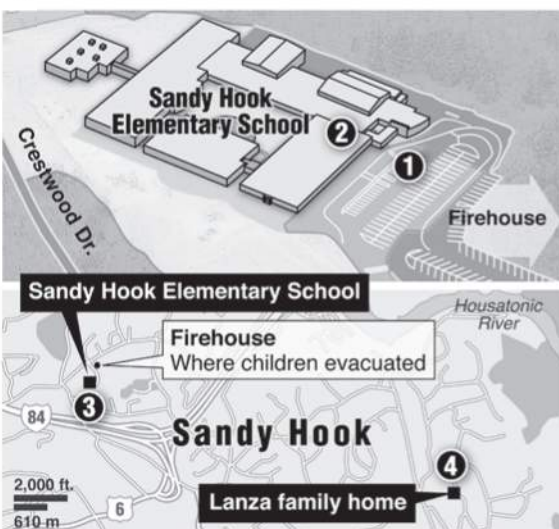
**Also recovered; locations not revealed**

- .45-caliber Henry repeating rifle
- .22-caliber Marlin rifle
- .30-caliber Enfield rifle

### Victims at school

- 20 children, mostly first graders; school principal, school psychologist, four other faculty
- Aged from 6-56
- 12 girls, eight boys; all faculty were female

Source: AP, MSNBC, Reuters, Newtown Police, Glock AG, SIG Sauer, Bushmaster, ESRI © 2012 MCT



**3 Approx. 9:30 a.m. ET**  
First emergency call; police respond, evacuate school to fire station; gunman found dead in school

**4 Late morning** Police find shooter's mother dead; police believe he killed her before driving her car to the school

Jimmy Greene, who wrote on Facebook that he was trying to "work through this nightmare."

"As much as she's needed here and missed by her mother, brother and me, Ana beat us all to paradise. I love you sweetie girl," he wrote.

Dawn Hochsprung, 47, principal

Dawn Hochsprung's pride in Sandy Hook Elementary was clear. She regularly tweeted photos from her time as principal there, giving indelible glimpses of life at a place now known for tragedy. Just this week, it was an image of fourth-graders rehearsing for their winter concert, days before that the tiny hands of kindergartners exchanging play money at their makeshift grocery store.

She viewed her school as a model, telling The Newtown Bee in 2010 that "I don't think you could find a more positive place to bring students to every day." She had worked to make Sandy Hook a place of safety, too, and in October, 47-year-old Hochsprung shared a picture of the school's evacuation drill with the message "Safety first." When the unthinkable came, she was ready to defend.

Officials said she died while lunging at the gunman in an attempt to overtake him.

"She had an extremely likable style about her," said Gerald Stomski, first selectman of Woodbury, where Hochsprung lived and had taught. "She was an extremely charismatic principal while she was here."

Mary Sherlach, 56, school psychologist

When the shots rang out, Mary Sherlach threw herself into the danger.

Janet Robinson, the superintendent of Newtown Public Schools, said Sherlach and the school's principal ran toward the shooter. They lost their own lives, rushing toward him.

Even as Sherlach neared retirement, her job at Sandy Hook was one she loved. Those who knew her called her a wonderful neighbor, a beautiful person, a dedicated educator.

Her son-in-law, Eric Schwartz, told the South Jersey Times that Sherlach rooted on the Miami Dolphins, enjoyed visiting the Finger Lakes, relished helping children overcome their problems. She had planned to leave work early on Friday, he said, but never had the chance. In a news conference Saturday, he told reporters the loss was devastating, but that Sherlach was doing what she loved.

"Mary felt like she was doing

God's work," he said, "working with the children."

Lauren Gabrielle Rousseau, 30, teacher

Lauren Rousseau had spent years working as a substitute teacher and doing other jobs. So she was thrilled when she finally realized her goal this fall to become a full-time teacher at Sandy Hook.

Her mother, Teresa Rousseau, a copy editor at the Danbury News-Times, released a statement Saturday that said state police told them just after midnight that she was among the victims.

"Lauren wanted to be a teacher from before she even went to kindergarten," she said. "We will miss her terribly and will take comfort knowing that she had achieved that dream."

Her mother said she was thrilled to get the job.

"It was the best year of her life," she told the paper.

Rousseau has been called gentle, spirited and active. She had planned to see "The Hobbit" with her boyfriend Friday and had baked cupcakes for a party they were to attend afterward. She was born in Danbury, attended Danbury High, college at the University of Connecticut and graduate school at the University of Bridgeport.

She was a lover of music,

dance and theater.

"I'm used to having people die who are older," her mother said, "not the person whose room is up over the kitchen."

Anne Marie Murphy, 52, teacher

A happy soul. A good mother, wife and daughter. Artistic, fun-loving, witty and hardworking.

Remembering their daughter, Anne Marie Murphy, her parents had no shortage of adjectives to offer Newsday. When news of the shooting broke, Hugh and Alice McGowan waited for word of their daughter as hour by hour ticked by. And then it came.

Authorities told the couple their daughter was a hero who helped shield some of her students from the rain of bullets. As the grim news arrived, the victim's mother reached for her rosary.

"You don't expect your daughter to be murdered," her father told the newspaper. "It happens on TV. It happens elsewhere."

Chase Kowalski, 7, student

Chase Kowalski was always outside, playing in the backyard, riding his bicycle. Just last week, he was visiting neighbor Kevin Grimes, telling him about completing—and winning—his first mini-triathlon.

"You couldn't think of a better child," Grimes said.

Grimes' own five children all attended Sandy Hook, too. Cars lined up outside the Kowalski's ranch home Saturday, and a state trooper's car idled in the driveway. Grimes spoke of the boy only in the present tense.

Emilie Parker, 6, student

Quick to cheer up those in need of a smile, Emilie Parker never missed a chance to draw a picture or make a card.

Her father, Robbie Parker, fought back tears as he described the beautiful, blonde, always-smiling girl who loved to try new things, except food.

Parker, one of the first parents to publicly talk about his loss, expressed no animosity for the gunman, even as he struggled to explain the death to his other two children, ages 3 and 4. He's sustained by the fact that the world is better for having had Emilie in it.

"I'm so blessed to be her dad," he said.

Nancy Lanza, 52, gunman's mother

She was known before simply for the game nights she hosted and the holiday decorations she put up at her house. Now Nancy Lanza is known as her son's first victim.

Authorities say Lanza's 20-year-old son Adam gunned his mother down before killing 26 others at Sandy Hook. The two shared a home in a well-to-do Newtown neighborhood, but details were slow to emerge of who she was and what might have led her son to carry out such horror.

## Names and ages of those killed in Conn. rampage

Names and ages of the 26 people gunned down at a Connecticut elementary school Friday in the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history:

Charlotte Bacon, 6  
Daniel Barden, 7  
Rachel Davino, 29  
Olivia Engel, 6  
Josephine Gay, 7  
Ana Marquez-Greene, 6  
Dylan Hockley, 6  
Dawn Hochsprung, 47  
Madeleine Hsu, 6  
Catherine Hubbard, 6  
Chase Kowalski, 7  
Jesse Lewis, 6  
James Mattioli, 6

Grace McDonnell, 7  
Anne Marie Murphy, 52  
Emilie Parker, 6  
Jack Pinto, 6  
Noah Pozner, 6  
Caroline Previdi, 6  
Jessica Rekos, 6  
Avielle Richman, 6  
Lauren Rousseau, 30  
Mary Sherlach, 56  
Victoria Soto, 27  
Benjamin Wheeler, 6  
Allison Wyatt, 6

Source: Connecticut State Police

knew her say, what she loved.

And now, Victoria Soto is being called a hero.

Though details of the 27-year-old teacher's death remained fuzzy, her name has been invoked again and again as a portrait of selflessness and humanity among unfathomable evil. Those who knew her said they weren't surprised by reports she shielded her first-graders from danger.

"She put those children first. That's all she ever talked about," said a friend, Andrea Crowell. "She wanted to do her best for them, to teach them something new every day."

mayor of a Puerto Rican town and said the child's 9-year-old brother also was at the school, but escaped safely.

Elba Marquez had just visited the new home over Thanksgiving and finds herself perplexed by what happened. "What happened does not match up with the place where they live," she said.

A video shows a confident Ana hitting every note as she sings "Come, Thou Almighty King." She flashes a big grin and waves to the camera when she's done.

Jorge Marquez confirmed the girl's father is saxophonist



# Health & Fitness

## Study: People worldwide living longer, but sicker

By MARIA CHENG  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

**LONDON (AP)**—Nearly everywhere around the world, people are living longer and fewer children are dying. But increasingly, people are grappling with the diseases and disabilities of modern life, according to the most expansive global look so far at life expectancy and the biggest health threats.

The last comprehensive study was in 1990 and the top health problem then was the death of children under 5—more than 10 million each year. Since then, campaigns to vaccinate kids against diseases like polio and measles have reduced the number of children dying to about 7 million.

Malnutrition was once the main health threat for children. Now, everywhere except Africa, they are much more likely to overeat than to starve.

With more children surviving, chronic illnesses and disabilities that strike later in life are taking a bigger toll, the research said. High blood pressure has become the leading health risk worldwide, followed by smoking and alcohol.

“The biggest contributor to

the global health burden isn’t premature (deaths), but chronic diseases, injuries, mental health conditions and all the bone and joint diseases,” said one of the study leaders, Christopher Murray, director of the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

In developed countries, such conditions now account for more than half of the health problems, fueled by an aging population.

While life expectancy is climbing nearly everywhere, so too are the number of years people will live with things like vision or hearing loss and mental health issues like depression.

The research appears in seven papers published online Thursday by the journal *Lancet*. More than 480 researchers in 50 countries gathered data up to 2010 from surveys, censuses and past studies. They used statistical modeling to fill in the gaps for countries with little information. The series was mainly paid for by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

As in 1990, Japan topped the life expectancy list in 2010, with 79 for men and 86 for women. In the U.S. that year, life expectancy for men was 76 and for women, 81.

The research found wide variations in what’s killing people around the world. Some of the most striking findings highlighted by the researchers:—Homicide is the No. 3 killer of men in Latin America; it ranks 20th worldwide. In the U.S., it is the 21st cause of death in men, and in Western Europe, 57th.

■ While suicide ranks globally as the 21st leading killer, it is as high as the ninth top cause of death in women across Asia’s “suicide belt,” from India to China. Suicide ranks 14th in North America and 15th in Western Europe.

■ In people aged 15-49, diabetes is a bigger killer in Africa than

in Western Europe (8.8 deaths versus 1 death per 100,000).

■ Central and Southeast Asia have the highest rates of fatal stroke in young adults at about 15 cases per 100,000 deaths. In North America, the rate is about 3 per 100,000.

Globally, heart disease and stroke remain the top killers. Reflecting an older population, lung cancer moved to the 5th cause of death globally, while other cancers including those of the liver, stomach and colon are also in the top 20. AIDS jumped from the 35th cause of death in 1990 to the sixth leading cause two decades later.

While chronic diseases are

killing more people nearly everywhere, the overall trend is the opposite in Africa, where illnesses like AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are still major threats. And experts warn again shifting too much of the focus away from those ailments.

“It’s the nature of infectious disease epidemics that if you turn away from them, they will crop right back up,” said Jennifer Cohn, a medical coordinator at Doctors Without Borders.

Still, she acknowledged the need to address the surge of other health problems across Africa. Cohn said the agency was considering ways to treat things like heart disease and diabetes. “The

way we treat HIV could be a good model for chronic care,” she said.

Others said more concrete information is needed before making any big changes to public health policies.

“We have to take this data with some grains of salt,” said Sandy Cairncross, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

He said the information in some of the *Lancet* research was too thin and didn’t fully consider all the relevant health risk factors.

“We’re getting a better picture, but it’s still incomplete,” he said.

**ON THE NET**  
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<http://healthmetricsandevaluation.org>

## Fewer health care options for illegal immigrants

**ALAMO, Texas (AP)**—For years, Sonia Limas would drag her daughters to the emergency room whenever they fell sick. As an illegal immigrant, she had no health insurance, and the only place she knew to seek treatment was the hospital—the most expensive setting for those covering the cost.

The family’s options improved somewhat a decade ago with the expansion of community health clinics, which offered free or low-cost care with help from the federal government. But President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul threatens to roll back some of those services if clinics and hospitals are overwhelmed with newly insured patients and can’t afford to care for as many poor families.

To be clear, Obama’s law was never intended to help Limas and an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants like her. Instead, it envisions that 32 million uninsured Americans will get access to coverage by 2019. Because that should mean fewer uninsured patients showing up at hospitals, the Obama program slashed the federal reimbursement for uncompensated care.

But in states with large illegal immigrant populations, the math may not work, especially if lawmakers don’t expand Medicaid, the joint state-federal health program for the poor and disabled.

When the reform has been fully implemented, illegal immigrants will make up the nation’s second-largest population of uninsured, or about 25 percent. The only larger group will be people who qualify for insurance but fail to enroll, according to a 2012 study by the Washington-based Urban Institute.

And since about two-thirds of illegal immigrants live in just eight states, those areas will have a disproportionate share of the uninsured to care for.

In communities “where the number of undocumented immi-

grants is greatest, the strain has reached the breaking point,” Rich Umbdenstock, president of the American Hospital Association, wrote last year in a letter to Obama, asking him to keep in mind the uncompensated care hospitals gave to that group. “In response, many hospitals have had to curtail services, delay implementing services, or close beds.”

The federal government has offered to expand Medicaid, but states must decide whether to take the deal. And in some of those eight states—including Texas, Florida and New Jersey—hospitals are scrambling to determine whether they will still have enough money to treat the remaining uninsured.

Without a Medicaid expansion, the influx of new patients and the looming cuts in federal funding could inflict “a double whammy” in Texas, said David Lopez, CEO of the Harris Health System in Houston, which spends 10 to 15 percent of its \$1.2 billion annual budget to care for illegal immigrants.

Realistically, taxpayers are already paying for some of the treatment provided to illegal immigrants because hospitals are required by law to stabilize and treat any patients that arrive in an emergency room, regardless of their ability to pay. The money to cover the costs typically comes from federal, state and local taxes.

A solid accounting of money spent treating illegal immigrants is elusive because most hospitals do not ask for immigration status. But some states have tried.

California, which is home to the nation’s largest population of illegal immigrants, spent an estimated \$1.2 billion last year through Medicaid to care for 822,500 illegal immigrants.

The New Jersey Hospital Association in 2010 estimated that it cost between \$600 million and \$650 million annually to treat

550,000 illegal immigrants.

And in Texas, a 2010 analysis by the Health and Human Services Commission found that the agency had provided \$96 million in benefits to illegal immigrants, up from \$81 million two years earlier. The state’s public hospital districts spent an additional \$717 million in uncompensated care to treat that population.

If large states such as Florida and Texas make good on their intention to forgo federal money to expand Medicaid, the decision “basically eviscerates” the effects of the health care overhaul in those areas because of “who lives there and what they’re eligible for,” said Lisa Clemans-Cope, a senior researcher at the Urban Institute.

Seeking to curb expenses, hospitals might change what qualifies as an emergency or cap the number of uninsured patients they treat. And although it’s believed states with the most illegal immigrants will face a smaller cut, they will still lose money.

The potential impacts of reform are a hot topic at MD Anderson Cancer Center in

Houston. In addition to offering its own charity care, some MD Anderson oncologists volunteer at a county-funded clinic at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital that largely treats the uninsured.

“In a sense we’ve been in the worst-case scenario in Texas for a long time,” said Lewis Foxhall, MD Anderson’s vice president of health policy in Houston. “The large number of uninsured and the large low-income population creates a very difficult problem for us.”

Community clinics are a key part of the reform plan and were supposed to take up some of the slack for hospitals. Clinics received \$11 billion in new funding over five years so they could expand to help care for a swell of newly insured who might otherwise overwhelm doctors’ offices. But in the first year, \$600 million was cut from the centers’ usual allocation, leaving many to use the money to fill gaps rather than expand.

There is concern that clinics could themselves be inundated with newly insured patients, forcing many illegal immigrants back to emergency rooms.

### Personal Trainer

## Getting past your plateau

Some ways to achieve a common fitness goal – being able to do more situps, pushups or pullups.

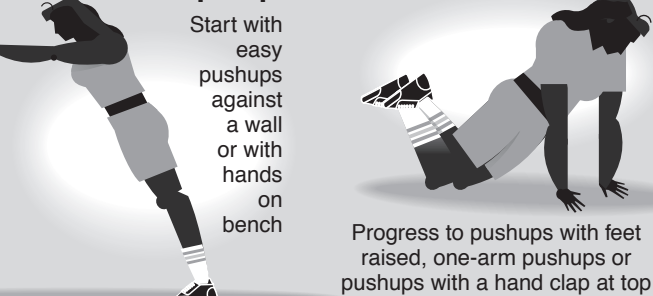
### Basic strategy

- Do easy variations of exercise; progress to harder ones
- Then go back to conventional version to see your improvement

### More situps



### More pushups



### More pullups

Start with pullups with a helper partially lifting you

Progress to standard pullups, then with hands close together, then with hands spread

© 2012 MCT  
Source: Body Results newsletter  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

### Healthy Living

## High energy, high acid

New research warns that the high levels of citric acid used as a preservative in energy drinks strip enamel from teeth.

### Not just sugar

• **Study measured acidity** of 13 sports drinks and nine energy drinks, as well as how long it takes saliva to neutralize acid

• **Researchers found** that energy drinks removed more enamel from teeth than sports drinks did

• **Loss of enamel** makes teeth more likely to develop cavities

• **Dentists are** especially worried about teens, since up to half of them are likely to consume energy drinks

Source: NPR, MCT Photo Service  
Graphic: Pat Carr

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# Life & Style

## Kids play Mozart with violins made from garbage

By PEDRO SERVIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CATEURA, Paraguay (AP)**—The sounds of a classical guitar come from two big jelly cans. Used X-rays serve as the skins of a thumping drum set. A battered aluminum salad bowl and strings tuned with forks from what must have been an elegant table make a violin. Bottle caps work perfectly well as keys for a saxophone.

A chamber orchestra of 20 children uses these and other instruments fashioned out of recycled materials from a landfill where their parents eke out livings as trash-pickers, regularly performing the music of Beethoven and Mozart, Henry Mancini and the Beatles. A concert they put on for The Associated Press also featured Frank Sinatra's "My Way" and some Paraguayan polkas.

Rocio Riveros, 15, said it took her a year to learn how to play her flute, which was made from tin cans. "Now I can't live without this orchestra," she said.

Word is spreading about these kids from Cateura, a vast landfill outside Paraguay's capital where some 25,000 families live alongside reeking garbage in abject poverty.

The youngsters of "The Orchestra of Instruments Recycled From Cateura" performed in Brazil, Panama and Colombia this year, and hope to play at an exhibit opening next year in their honor at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

"We want to provide a way out of the landfill for these kids and their families. So we're doing the impossible so that they



In this Dec. 8, 2012 photo, a saxophone repaired with coins and keys by Tito Romero sits in Romero's workshop at his home in Capiata, Paraguay.

can travel outside Paraguay, to become renowned and admired," said Favio Chavez, a social worker and music teacher who started the orchestra.

The museum connection was made by a Paraguayan documentary filmmaker, Alejandra Amarilla Nash. She and film producer Juliana Penaranda-Loftus have followed the orchestra for years, joining Chavez in his social work while making their film "Landfill Harmonic"

on a shoestring budget.

The documentary is far from complete. The kids still have much to prove. But last month, the filmmakers created a Facebook page and posted a short trailer on YouTube and Vimeo that has gone viral, quickly getting more than a million views altogether.

"It's a beautiful story and also fits in very well with this theme of ingenuity of humans around the world using what

they have at their disposal to create music," said Daniel Piper, curator of the 5,000-instrument Arizona museum.

The community of Cateura could not be more marginalized. But the music coming from garbage has some families believing in a different future for their children.

"Thanks to the orchestra, we were in Rio de Janeiro! We bathed in the sea, on the beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana. I never thought my dreams would become reality," said Tania Vera, a 15-year-old violinist who lives in a wooden shack by a contaminated stream. Her mother has health problems, her father abandoned them, and her older sister left the orchestra after becoming pregnant. Tania, though, now wants to be a veterinarian, as well as a musician.

The orchestra was the brainchild of Chavez, 37. He had learned clarinet and guitar as a child, and had started a small music school in another town in Paraguay before he got a job with an environmental organization teaching trash-pickers in Cateura how to protect themselves.

Chavez opened a tiny music school at the landfill five years ago, hoping to keep youngsters

out of trouble. But he had just five instruments to share, and the kids often grew restless, irritating Chavez's boss.

So Chavez asked one of the trash-pickers, Nicolas Gomez, to make some instruments from recycled materials to keep the younger kids occupied.

"He found a drum and repaired it, and one thing led to another. Since he had been a carpenter, I asked him to make me a guitar. And so we just kept at it," Chavez said.

Come April, the classical stringed instruments that Gomez has made in his workshop alongside his pigs and chickens will be on display in Phoenix alongside one of John Lennon's pianos and Eric Clapton's guitars.

"I only studied until the fifth grade because I had to go work breaking rocks in the quarries," said Gomez, 48. But "if you give me the precise instructions, tomorrow I'll make you a helicopter!"

The museum also will display wind instruments made by Tito Romero, who was repairing damaged trumpets in a shop outside Asuncion until Chavez came calling and asked him to turn galvanized pipe and other pieces of scavenged metal into

flutes, clarinets and saxophones.

"It's slow work, demanding precision, but it's very gratifying," Romero said. "Chavez is turning these kids of Cateura into people with a lot of self-esteem, giving them a shield against the vices."

Ada Rios, a 14-year-old first violinist, greeted the AP with sleepy eyes and a wide smile at her family's home on the banks of a sewage-filled creek that runs into the Paraguay River.

"The orchestra has given a new meaning to my life, because in Cateura, unfortunately, many young people don't have opportunities to study, because they have to work or they're addicted to alcohol and drugs," she said.

Her little sister Noelia announced with the innocence of a 12-year-old that "I'm famous in my school thanks to being in the orchestra."

Their 16-year-old aunt next door, Maria Rios, 16, also is a violinist.

"My mother signed me up in teacher Chavez's school three years ago. I was really bothered that she hadn't asked me first, but today I'm thankful because she put my name in as someone who wanted to learn violin," Maria said.

## Hollywood responds to deadly school shooting

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Hollywood has responded to the rampage at a Connecticut elementary school by pulling back on its offerings, and one star says the entertainment industry should take some responsibility for such violence.

Jamie Foxx, one of the industry's biggest stars, said Saturday as he promoted Quentin Tarantino's upcoming ultra-violent spaghetti Western-style film about slavery, "Django Unchained," that actors can't ignore the fact that movie violence can influence people.

"We cannot turn our back and say that violence in films or anything that we do doesn't have a sort of influence," Foxx said in an interview on Saturday. "It does."

In true Tarantino form, buckets of blood explode from characters as they are shot or shredded to pieces by rabid dogs in "Django Unchained."

Despite Friday's mass

shooting, the press junket for the movie, which opens in theaters Christmas Day, continued in New York as scheduled on Saturday.

Tarantino, whose credits include "Pulp Fiction" and the "Kill Bill" volumes, said he was tired of defending his films each time the U.S. is shocked by gun violence. He said "tragedies happen" and blame should fall on those guilty of the crimes.

Foxx's co-star Kerry Washington said she believes the film's explicit brutality serves an important purpose in educating audiences about the atrocities of slavery.

"I do think that it's important when we have the opportunity to talk about violence and not just kind of have it as entertainment, but connect it to the wrongs, the injustices, the social ills," she said.

In the Newtown, Connecticut, massacre on Friday, a gunman killed his mother and then

went to an elementary school, where he killed six adults and 20 children before committing suicide.

In response, premieres for Tom Cruise's new action movie, "Jack Reacher," in Pittsburgh and the family comedy "Parental Guidance" in Los Angeles were postponed.

Also, Fox pulled new episodes of "Family Guy" and "American Dad" that were to air Sunday to avoid potentially sensitive content. The originally scheduled episode of "Family Guy" had Peter telling his own version of the nativity story. The "American Dad" episode told the story of a demon that punished naughty children at Christmas. Both series plan to substitute reruns.

Fox also confirmed that a scheduled repeat of "The Cleveland Show" for Sunday was swapped for another rerun of that series out of the same concern.

### DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

## †NORMAN SANCHEZ DELA CRUZ

Lovingly known as "Norman Bila" or "Nono"  
Born to life on October 16, 1968 and was called  
to his eternal rest on December 04, 2012

**In His New Life, He Now Joins His:**

**Father & Mother In-Law:** †Joze Aldan Palacios (Menduk)  
& †Rufina Takai Palacios

**His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:**

**Wife:** Annie Takai Palacios Dela Cruz

**Father & Mother:** Gregorio Castro Dela Cruz (Goru Bila)  
& Bernadita Sanchez Dela Cruz

**Daughter & Son In-Law:** Adeline P. Deleon Guerrero & Joseph Babauta

**Reared Children:** Vincent DLG. Pua; Alvander DLG. Pua; Ann Margaret DLG. Pua; Pauline Nicole Palacios; Dwayne P. Camacho; Annielynn Palacios; Jenael Lucero; Justin Lucero

**Brothers & Sisters and In-Laws:** Gregorio Jr. S & Lucy Dela Cruz and Children; Steven S. Dela Cruz & †Bernadita N. Dela Cruz and Children; Martina S. Dela Cruz and Children; Martin S. Dela Cruz & Evangeline Sablan and Children; Jeffrey S. Dela Cruz; Jennifer DLC. & William B. Salas and Children; Annabelle DLC. & Robert Frohman and Children; Rose DLC. & Jeff Manalo and Children; Carmen DLC. & Jonathon Taisacan and Children; Angie Benavente

**Brothers & Sisters In Law:** Francesca T. & Alfred Johnson and Children; Francisco T. & Petra S. Palacios and Children; Emilia T. Palacios and Children; Pedro T. & Nery R. Palacios and Children; Margarita T. Deleon Guerrero & Alvin L. Pua and Children; †Pablo T. Palacios

**Close Family Friends:** John & Betty Taitinfong; Team Galilek of Guam; Catherine Pangelinan & John Lizua

On Monday, December 17, 2012, his body will be escorted at 7:30AM from Borja Funeral to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM and will immediately follow by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

Si Yu'us Ma'as — Thank You

**The Family**





# Q&A: Jackman, Hathaway dream a dream in 'Les Miz'

By JAKE COYLE  
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)**—They've both played superheroes. They've both hosted the Oscars. But what unites "Les Misérables" co-stars Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway most is a deep, some might even say geeky love of musical theater.

Yes, Catwoman and Wolverine can sing.

Musical ardor does not always burnish the reputations of action stars. But in Tom Hooper's new film of the famed musical, Jackman, as Jean Valjean, and Hathaway, as the unfortunate Fantine, are finally exercising their musical chops on the big screen.

Jackman has made a home on Broadway and won Tony awards, while Hathaway's theater experience is more limited. Both dove into "Les Misérables" with zeal, considering it a chance of a lifetime: Jackman carrying the weight of the lead performance and Hathaway with the show-stopping number, "I Dreamed a Dream."

Both actors shed considerable weight for their roles (it's a gaunter, more hardened Jackman than moviegoers are used to) and Hathaway also had her

hair trimmed in an on-camera buzz cut. The film is to be released Dec. 25 but Hooper's naturalistic adaptation—shot almost entirely with live singing as opposed to the typical dubbing for movie musicals—has already made "Les Misérables" an expected hit, with Oscar nominations, including Jackman as best actor and Hathaway for best supporting actress, widely anticipated. Both received Golden Globe nominations Thursday.

Hathaway and Jackman recently sat down to reflect on their similarities, "manning-up" in musical theater and whether they'll ever get the songs of "Les Misérables" out of their heads.

**AP: You two each grew up dreaming of Broadway, have played superheroes and have hosted the Oscars.**

**Hathaway:** One of us successfully.

**AP: Do you feel at all simpatico?**

**Jackman:** I've always felt simpatico with Anne ever since we met. When we first started to really work together on the Oscars thing, I instantly loved her. I've been hounding Annie to do any number of films.

**Hathaway:** (Biting her



This Dec. 2, 2012 photo shows actors Anne Hathaway, left, and Hugh Jackman in New York. Hathaway portrays Fantine and Jackman portrays Jean Valjean in the film adaptation of the Victor Hugo novel, "Les Misérables." The film opens on Christmas Day.

sweater) It's hard when someone you admire so much says nice things about you. I've just admired you. I think I've probably known about you longer than you've known about me. Hugh was always this myth in the Broadway and West

End community. And though I never did a show, I did a lot of workshops and readings and things like that. Everybody had a Hugh Jackman story. Hugh's always been this beacon of light out there, someone who could do theater and film.

**AP: What struck me is that in "Les Misérables," from your point of view, you're belting out songs with a live pianist accompanying you through earpieces. But the set is totally quiet. No one else can hear the music.**

**Jackman:** It was a weird set to go on. It was a bunch of crazy people in the rain singing. The good thing about that was, they couldn't tell if you were hitting the wrong key because they couldn't hear the accompaniment.

**Hathaway:** I really want someone to go and talk to the crew and find out from their perspective what it was like to see dozens and dozens of actors every day standing there looking at the camera and then all of a sudden bursting out into eight-part harmony simultaneously.

**Jackman:** It was weird how natural it became.

**AP: Few films have recorded singing live like this. How does that affect your acting?**

**Jackman:** Acting through song, the way I do it is I take the lyrics off the music sheet and I write them out as dialogue, as you would break down any script—as a series of thoughts and ideas and motivations. That I needed to get under my skin first. And I learned that from Trevor Nunn (the famed theater director and director of the first English-language production of "Les Misérables").

**AP: For you, Anne, what was the day you performed "I Dreamed a Dream" in a single take like?**

**Hathaway:** It came right after I cut off my hair so it was a little bit of an intense one-two punch. It wasn't my favorite scene to shoot just because there was so much pressure of expectation. I had gone to Tom and said I was starting to feel nervous about a week before. He said: "Listen. It's not an iconic song. You mustn't think about it like that. It's this wom-

an's howl. It's her processing what's just happened to her." So I felt very protected; I knew what I wanted to do. But all of a sudden the stakes were raised because there was a camera there and it was going to be forever. I couldn't stop thinking about how if I messed it up how exposed I would feel. So I did the first take and I was so angry with myself because it wasn't good enough. I had really wanted to come out of the gate and just nail it. I dug in a little deeper and we did the second take and it wasn't there and I just thought, "Oh, God." I started the third take and I just said, "No, no. Stop. I'm sorry. The balance, it's off." And that's when I took the earpieces and stuck them in my ears. I closed my eyes and I remember thinking, "Hathaway, if you do not do this in this moment, you have no right to call yourself an actor. Put aside all that bulls--- and just do your job." I opened my eyes and I'm like (snaps fingers): "Let's go." And I did it. That was the one that I let rip and that was the one that was in the piece.

**AP: You two have seen the awards season play out from multiple perspectives before. With the predictions for you both, what's your attitude going into that process?**

**Hathaway:** On Jan. 11 (the day after the Oscar nominations), if I am not nominated, I do not want to look back and say I missed all of the joy of the "Les Miz" press because I was expecting to get nominated. I am so happy being here today, talking with you about this extraordinary film that I have a small part in. To want or expect more just feels a bit greedy.

**Jackman:** Being a lover of musical theater, the thought that maybe there is some recognition for the film and therefore the genre, that maybe Tom has found a new way to deliver the genre, to make it feel relevant and immediate—that's exciting. Now it's selfish, but I would like to be in some more.

## Inquest: Nurse in British royal hoax found hanging

**LONDON (AP)**—A nurse was found hanging in her room three days after she had been duped by a hoax call from Australian DJs about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, a U.K. inquest was told. The case is being treated as an apparent suicide.

Nurse Jacintha Saldanha was discovered hanging by a scarf from a wardrobe in her nurses' quarters Dec. 7 by a colleague and a member of security staff at London's King Edward VII Hospital, coroner's officer Lynda Martindill said Thursday.

Martindill said an attempt to revive Saldanha failed.

Police detective chief inspector James Harman said Saldanha, 46, also had injuries to her wrists.

He told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court that two notes were found at the scene and another was found among Saldanha's belongings. He said there were no suspicious circumstances, meaning nobody else was involved in Saldanha's death.

Harman said police were examining the notes, interviewing the nurse's friends, family and colleagues and looking at emails and phone calls to establish what led to her death.

He also said detectives would be contacting police in

the Australian state of New South Wales to collect "relevant evidence."

Saldanha answered the phone last week when two Australian disc jockeys called seeking information about the former Kate Middleton, who was being treated for severe morning sickness. The DJs impersonated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, and Saldanha was tricked into transferring the call to another nurse, who revealed private details about the duchess' condition.

The DJs, 2DayFM's Mel Greig and Michael Christian, apologized for the prank in emotional interviews on Australian television, saying they never expected their call would be put through. The show was taken off the air and the DJs have been suspended.

New South Wales state police said Friday that they were investigating a letter sent to the station that made several threats against the DJs. Police declined to release details of the letter.

"The safety of our employees is an absolute priority," 2DayFM's parent company Southern Cross Austereo said in a statement. "We have sensible measures in place, as we always do, to ensure our people are safe. This is now a matter for the police, and we

trust they will investigate any specific threats that emerge."

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is investigating whether radio station 2DayFM breached its broadcasting license conditions and the industry code of practice.

In London, coroner Fiona Wilcox opened and adjourned Saldanha's inquest until March 26.

Wilcox expressed "my sympathies to her family and everybody who has been touched by this tragic death."

In Britain, inquests are held to determine the facts whenever someone dies unexpectedly, violently or in disputed circumstances. Inquests do not determine criminal liability or apportion blame.

The local authority, Westminster Council, said Saldanha's body was released to her family after Thursday's hearing.

Saldanha, who was born in India, lived in Bristol in southwestern England with her husband and two teenage children. Her husband, Benedict Barboza, has said she will be laid to rest in Shirva, India.

The family was not in court. Lawmaker Keith Vaz, who has spoken on their behalf, said the nurse's loved ones "need time to grieve."

Vaz said a memorial Mass would be held Saturday at London's Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral.



Saldanha

## Jenni Rivera's remains returned to So. California

**LONG BEACH, California (AP)**—Jenni Rivera, the Latin music star killed in a weekend plane crash, has made her final journey home.

Three brothers of Rivera, a Southern California native, accompanied her remains on a Thursday night flight from Mexico to the Long Beach airport.

Escorted by police, her casket was then driven to a Long Beach mortuary, where dozens of fans waited.

Other fans gathered outside her mother's home in nearby

Lakewood, where well-wishers have left a memorial of balloons, candles and flowers.

Rivera, 43, was perhaps the most successful female singer

in grupero, a male-dominated Mexico regional style, and had branched out into acting and reality television. Known as the "Diva de la Banda," she sold 15 million records and was loved on both sides of the border for her down-to-earth style and songs about heartbreak and overcoming pain.

She and six other people were killed Sunday evening when a

plane she was traveling in nosedived from 28,000 feet to the ground while flying from Monterrey in northern Mexico to the central city of Toluca.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Results of DNA tests were pending, but her family conceded Thursday that she was dead.

"We have received 100 percent confirmation that my sister Jenni is gone to be with the Lord," a brother, Pedro Rivera Jr., said during a news conference at the Lakewood home. "She is in the presence of God now. They did show pictures to my brothers of the body; it is not the full body."



Rivera



# One Direction is MTV's 2012 Artist of the Year

**N**EW YORK (AP)—They're platinum. They're fascinating. And now One Direction is MTV's 2012 Artist of the Year.

MTV says the fivesome is "the clear choice for the top spot" after a year that included two No. 1 albums, hits such as "What Makes You Beautiful" and a sold-out world tour.

One Direction's Louis Tomlinson calls Thursday's honor "the icing on the cake."

MTV's team of music staffers chose Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" as song as the year.

One Direction placed third on the U.K. version of "The X Factor" in 2010 and made their U.S. debut in March with the No. 1 album "Up All Night." Their sophomore album, "Take Me Home," was the year's third-highest debut.

The group also made Barbara Walters' most fascinating people of 2012 list.



AP  
In this March 31, 2012 file photo, One Direction, from left, Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne, and Harry Styles arrive at Nickelodeon's 25th Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

## Billboard: Adele dominates another year with '21'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It's another year and another Adele domination on the music charts: The British singer is Billboard's top artist of 2012.

Billboard said Friday that Adele is the year's biggest artist and her diamond "21" album, released in February 2011, is this year's top album. Adele earned both prizes last year.

The year's top three songs are Gotye's "Somebody That I Used to Know," Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" and fun.'s "We Are Young."

Adele is also the top female artist. Drake is the top male artist, One Direction is the top new artist and Maroon 5 is the year's top group.

Billboard said Drake, Taylor



AP  
This Feb. 12, 2012 file photo shows Adele performing during the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Swift, fun. and Don Omar are the top acts in the R&B/hip-hop, country, rock and Latin fields, respectively.



### CASABLANCA PIANO

AP  
This undated photo provided by Sotheby's shows the piano used in the classic 1942 film "Casablanca." The piano used for the song "As Times Goes By" has fetched more than \$600,000 at auction. The 58-key upright was sold to an unidentified buyer for \$602,500 at Sotheby's New York on Friday. Its pre-sale estimate was up to \$1.2 million. It was offered by a Japanese collector on the film's 70th anniversary. The collector purchased the movie prop at a Sotheby's auction in 1988 for \$154,000.

## Man buying his own gifts is selling his wife short

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** Twice in recent years my husband has bought a gift for himself for Christmas, wrapped it, put it under the tree and then opened it on Christmas morning, gleefully exclaiming that it was a great gift and just what he wanted.

The first time he did it, he wrote my name on the gift card as the giver. The second time he didn't bother. When I asked him why, he said it was something he saw in the store and wanted. When I asked why he didn't just ask me to get it, he didn't have an answer.

He has also bought cards for himself for Valentine's Day. On both of them he wrote, "To Larry from 'Hon,'" his pet name for me.

I was flabbergasted and upset and asked him why he would do such a thing. He said he ran across the "perfect card" for him while looking for one for me.

I don't know what to make of his behavior, but it is demeaning and I feel angry for days afterward. He has a habit of comparing my gifts with those from his son or those he bought for himself, and it makes me feel as if mine don't measure up. My husband is 77. What's wrong with him?

PERPLEXED IN FLORIDA

**DEAR PERPLEXED:** It appears you married someone who likes to buy on impulse and is insensitive to how his words and actions affect others. Look on the bright side: He's solved the problem of what to get the man who has everything for you!

However, because this is a recent change in his behavior, consider reporting it to his doctor.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have received several invitations to parties recently in which I was asked to do part of the work or participate in some of the expenses.

The one that really took the cake was to a party hosted by my boss. She had decided to celebrate her birthday at her house, and when I and my co-workers RSVP'd, we were asked what type of dish we planned to bring. We also discovered that only invited EMPLOYEES were asked to bring food. Her "real friends" weren't asked to bring anything. Needless to say, all but one employee remembered they had a "conflict."

If someone doesn't have the time or money to host a party, there are plenty of inexpensive foods, disposable tableware, etc., that can be used in a pleasant, cost-effective event without burdening—financially or otherwise—invited guests. What matters is getting together to celebrate and socialize and have a good time with friends and family. Abby, your thoughts?

UNHAPPY "GUEST" IN MISSOURI

**DEAR "GUEST":** I'm glad you asked. I agree with your sentiments. Your boss should be ashamed of himself for trying to use you and the other employees in the guise of having you as guests at her birthday party. How tacky!

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm attending a wedding in a few months. The bride has requested that all female guests not wear heels because they're a short couple. I don't have any flats that will go with my dress, so I will have to either buy new shoes or "disappoint" the bride.

I've been hearing stories about wedding guests being told what colors to wear. I think brides (and couples) like this are going too far. What do you think?

PUT OUT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**DEAR PUT OUT:** I think that if the bridal couple would like to feel a few inches taller on their big day, and buying a new pair of shoes would stretch your budget, you should consider having an old pair of flats dyed to match your dress, or skip the festivities and send your good wishes.

■■■

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### School shooting postpones Cruise premiere in US

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The U.S. premiere of the Tom Cruise action movie "Jack Reacher" is being postponed following the deadly Connecticut school shooting. Paramount Pictures says "out of honor and respect for the families of the victims" the premiere won't take place Saturday in Pittsburgh, where "Jack Reacher" was filmed. The premiere would've been Cruise's first U.S. media appearance since his split from Katie Holmes over the summer. It was to be more contained with select outlets covering and a location away from Hollywood or New York. A proclamation ceremony for Cruise had been planned with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl. No new date for the premiere has been set. The movie opens Dec. 21.

#### Queen Elizabeth II gets art trove as jubilee gift

**LONDON (AP)**—What do you get the woman who has everything? Britain's Royal Academy of Arts has presented Queen Elizabeth II with works by some of the country's leading artists to mark the monarch's 60 years on the throne. The 97 works on paper include a royal portrait by Tracey Emin, a celebratory Diamond Jubilee drawing done on an iPad by David Hockney and pieces by Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor and Grayson Perry.

All the artists are members of the Royal Academy, the elite artistic society founded in 1768. The artworks will go on public display at Buckingham Palace next year. Martin Clayton, senior curator of prints and drawings at the Royal Collection Trust, on Friday called the gift

"a vivid cross-section of the best of contemporary British art."

#### No bidder found for letters by 'Peanuts' creator

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A rare archive of letters and drawings by "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz did not find a buyer at a New York City auction. Sotheby's had estimated that the letters would sell for \$250,000 to \$350,000 at Friday's sale. The cartoonist wrote the affectionate letters to a young woman in 1970-1971. The 44 letters included 22 original drawings of some of the comic strip's characters, including Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Lucy. Sotheby's called it the most significant collection of correspondence and drawings by Schulz to come to auction. Schulz died in 2000 at age 77.

#### Amanda Bynes enters settlement in hit-and-run case

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Actress Amanda Bynes has resolved a misdemeanor hit-and-run case after entering into a civil settlement with other drivers. Court records show Bynes entered a civil compromise to end the case and her attorney informed a Los Angeles court on Thursday. Bynes was charged with leaving the scene of accidents in April and August without providing the proper information. Defendants in certain California misdemeanor cases are allowed to enter civil settlements to resolve criminal cases. City Attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan says prosecutors objected to the dismissal, noting other instances in which Bynes has been cited for driving without a license and her pending driving under the influence case.







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# Parker leads Spurs past Celtics



**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Tony Parker had 22 points and eight assists to help the San Antonio Spurs beat the Boston Celtics 103-88 on Saturday night.

Gary Neal added 20 points, Danny Green scored 12 and Tiago Splitter finished with 16 points and eight rebounds for San Antonio (19-6), which overcame the loss of Manu Ginobili to improve to 8-2 at home.

Ginobili departed with a bruised left quad after he ran into Chris Wilcox's knee on a screen with 2:42 left in the first quarter. The severity of the injury wasn't immediately known.

Paul Pierce and Jason Terry each scored 18 points for Boston (12-11). Kevin Garnett added 13 points and Courtney Lee had 11.

Parker scored nine points in the final quarter as San Antonio held on for the physical victory over the Celtics. He had one turnover in 36 minutes.

Spurs star Tim Duncan had a season-low five points. He had nine rebounds, but was 2 for 13 from the field.

Parker's off-balance layup with 3:35 remaining gave San Antonio a 96-82 lead, prompting a timeout by Boston coach Doc Rivers. Parker sprinted toward the bench following the layup, pumping his fist and yelling "come on."

Both teams pulled their starters a minute after Parker's layup.

Splitter scored 10 points in the first half, going 4 for 5 from the field. With Duncan struggling, the Spurs needed Splitter's production.

The Spurs went on an 11-0 run after Jeff Green's layup tied it at 55 in the third. Danny Green hit a pair of 3s and Neal had a 3 and a teardrop jumper during the run.

## Clippers 111, Bucks 85

In Milwaukee, Matt Barnes scored 21 points, Blake Griffin had 18 points and 11 rebounds and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the cold-shooting Milwaukee Bucks for their ninth consecutive victory.

DeAndre Jordan added 15 points and 11 rebounds for Los Angeles, which had lost three in a row in Milwaukee. Griffin had three spectacular dunks in a brief stretch in the third quarter.

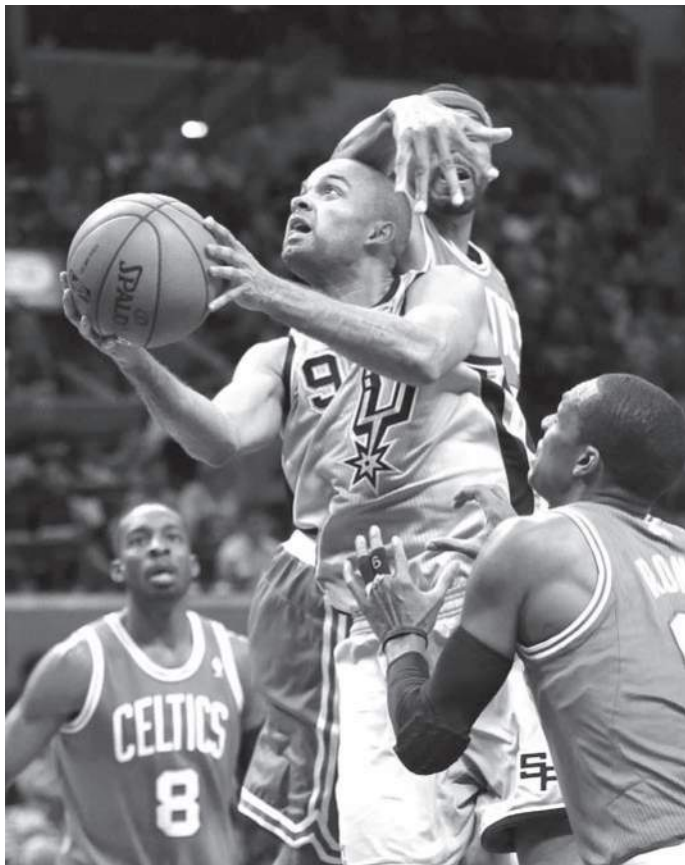
It's the longest winning streak for the franchise since the Buffalo Braves captured 11 in a row during the 1974-75 season.

The Bucks, who had won four in a row, shot 36 percent from the field.

Marquis Daniels scored 16 points for Milwaukee and Monta Ellis had 13, but went 4 for 14 from the floor. Brandon Jennings was held to nine points on 3-for-13 shooting.

## Timberwolves 114, Mavericks 106, OT

In Minneapolis, Ricky Rubio



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (9), of France, drives between Boston Celtics' Chris Wilcox, center, Jeff Green (8) and Rajon Rondo, right, during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, in San Antonio.

made a triumphant return to the court with nine assists and eight points in 19 minutes, sparking the Timberwolves to an overtime victory over the Mavericks.

Andrei Kirilenko scored five of his 14 points in overtime while Rubio watched from the bench because of a minutes restriction on his surgically repaired left knee.

Nikola Pekovic scored 21 points for the Timberwolves, who won their fourth straight game despite playing without All-Star Kevin Love because of an illness.

O.J. Mayo had 20 points, six assists and five rebounds and Shawn Marion had 14 points and 10 boards for the Mavericks, who led by 13 early before Rubio came off the bench for the first time since tearing up his left knee in March.

## Warriors 115, Hawks 93

In Atlanta, David Lee had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and the Warriors completed an impressive road trip with a victory.

Stephen Curry collected 18 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for Golden State, which went in front to stay in the second quarter. Harrison Barnes and Carl Landry each had 19 points.

The Warriors capped a 6-1 tour against Eastern Conference teams, including a win at Miami. It was the team's first winning road trip of at least six games since a 4-3 trip in the 1970-71 season.

Al Horford led Atlanta with 17 points. Lou Williams scored 16 and Ivan Johnson had 15 points and nine rebounds. The Hawks had won 11 of 13.

Golden State completed a sweep of its two-game season series against Atlanta one night

after a 99-85 loss at Orlando. It was Lee's seventh straight game with at least 20 points and 10 rebounds.

## Knicks 103, Cavaliers 102

In New York, Raymond Felton scored 25 points, Tyson Chandler had 23, and the Knicks earned their fourth straight win, overcoming Kyrie Irving's career-high 41 points and the absence of

**MIAMI (AP)**—When the Miami Heat players and coaches showed up for work Saturday morning, basketball was secondary.

Newtown was the focus.

Friday's massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., was the primary topic of discussion among the Heat, even though they were gathered to finish prepping for a Saturday night game against Washington. It's rare for anything to overshadow basketball on the Heat practice court, but clearly, this was not going to be a typical day.

"Basketball, this is nothing," Heat forward LeBron James said. "These games are nothing compared to when you have a tragedy like that. It sucks that sometimes you need a tragedy to put things back in perspective, to appreciate what you have. But it does that to people. It's unfortunate that you have to have something like that to understand what's really important and some things that aren't important at all. Family is the No. 1 important thing in life."

It's likely that many Heat players and coaches had never heard of Newtown before Friday.

That doesn't mean they

Carmelo Anthony.

The Knicks improved the NBA's only unbeaten home record to 10-0 when Anderson Varejao missed the second of two free throws with 1 second left. It's the best home start for New York since the 1991-92 team won its first 11 at Madison Square Garden.

Anthony, the NBA's No. 2 scorer, missed the game after spraining his left ankle Thursday in the third quarter of a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

It almost wasn't enough thanks to Irving, who had no problems wearing a black protective mask after breaking a bone in his face on a hard fall Friday night against Milwaukee.

CJ Miles finished with 17 points for the Cavs, who had three masked men in uniform as they dropped their third straight.

## Heat 102, Wizards 72

In Miami, LeBron James had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and the Heat never trailed.

Udonis Haslem and Dwyane Wade each scored 13 for Miami, which outscored Washington 29-10 in the third quarter to build a 33-point lead. James had 16 points alone in the third, ensuring he would finish with at least 20 points for the 26th straight regular-season game and 42nd consecutive game overall dating to last season.

Chris Bosh added 12 points for the Heat, who turned 21 turnovers into 30 points.

Bradley Beal scored 19 points and Cartier Martin added 18 for the Wizards, who beat the Heat 105-101 in Washington on Dec. 4.

## Grizzlies 99, Jazz 86

In Salt Lake City, Zach Randolph had 25 points and 16 rebounds, and the Grizzlies snapped a three-game losing streak.

It was Memphis' first win in Salt Lake City since an overtime victory on Jan. 24, 2007.

The Grizzlies outscored Utah 28-10 in the third quarter to turn a 10-point halftime deficit into a 72-64 lead entering the fourth. The Jazz shot just 15 percent (3 of 20) in the quarter after shooting 56.4 percent at halftime.

Al Jefferson led Utah with 21 points. Paul Millsap added 12 and Gordon Hayward 11 for the Jazz (13-12), who have lost two straight.

Marco Gasol added 16 points for Memphis (15-6), including nine in the decisive third.

## Magic 107, Bobcats 98

In Charlotte, N.C., Glen Davis and Arron Afflalo each scored 20 points as the Magic handed the Bobcats their 11th straight loss.

Jameer Nelson added 16 points and six assists for Orlando, and J.J. Redick had 14 points, including a big 3-pointer down the stretch. Nikola Vucevic finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

The Magic have won three of four.

Kemba Walker had a career-high 32 points for Charlotte.

The second-year point guard was 11 of 19 from the field, and also had seven assists.

## Bulls 83, Nets 82

In Chicago, Joakim Noah had 12 points and 10 rebounds, and helped force a key turnover as the Bulls rallied for the win.

Nets star Deron Williams missed a jumper that would have tied it in the final seconds, helping Chicago win for the fifth time in six games.

Noah and Luol Deng trapped Joe Johnson late in the game, resulting in one of Brooklyn's 18 turnovers. Deng turned the mistake into a basket that tied it at 79.

Brook Lopez had 18 points and 10 rebounds in 25 minutes for Brooklyn, which played for the fourth time in five days.

Marco Belinelli led Chicago with 19 points and made two free throws to cap an 8-0 run in the closing minutes.

## Pacers 88, Pistons 77

In Auburn Hills, Mich., David West had 23 points and George Hill added 18 points and seven assists to lead Indiana to the victory.

Paul George added 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Pacers (13-11), who have won three in a row to move two games over .500 for the first time this season.

Greg Monroe led the Pistons with 18 points and added eight rebounds. Rodney Stuckey had 15 points and seven assists, and Brandon Knight added 14 points.

# Athletes shaken by Connecticut shooting

weren't affected, like countless others. Moments of silence were observed before many games.

In Memphis before tipoff of a college basketball game against Louisville, a moment of silence was observed for the victims and for 32-year-old Memphis police officer Martoiya Lang, a mother of four children, who was shot and killed on Friday. Public address announcer Chuck Roberts struggled and his voice choked up a bit as he said the Memphis officer's name. And he finished after the moment ended with "Amen."

In England, the Queens Park Rangers soccer team wore black armbands at the request of its players during a Premier League match against Fulham. Chelsea captain John Terry on Instagram said "So So Sad" beneath a picture of a candle, and he urged prayers for school. Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany tweeted: "Giving guns to everyone to 'protect' their home or fighting to get rid of all the guns? How many more Newtons will it take?"

Moments of silence were everywhere, from a minor-league hockey game in Hershey, Pa.; a U.S. women's soccer exhibition

match in Boca Raton, Fla.; and at golf's Father-Son Challenge in Orlando, Fla., where all players and caddies wore black ribbons to honor the victims.

More tributes—many more—are coming from the sports world over the next few days. It's expected that all NFL games this weekend will be preceded by tributes, such as moments of silence and helmet decals. The New York Giants and New York Jets both plan to wear the letters S.H.E.S., for Sandy Hill Elementary School, on their helmets this weekend. And the New England Patriots will light flares for each of the 26 people killed at the school.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with all the people impacted by that tragedy," Jets coach Rex Ryan said Saturday. "It's, wow, it's amazing. ... Just a horrific deal that happened there."

The Heat also held a moment of silence Saturday night, with many players being accompanied on the court by their children. Chris Bosh held his son, Jackson, tightly against his chest.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra has shopped at the Clackamas Town Center, a mall in his native Ore-

gon where a gunman killed two people Tuesday and then himself. One of Dwyane Wade's nephews was shot last March in Chicago, where gun violence is a major topic of discussion. Ray Allen attended the University of Connecticut, still calls it "my state" and expressed shock as he tried to collect information about Friday's events.

"It's still on my mind. I'm really emotional about it. My eyes water up a little bit just thinking about it right now. Your kids are what you live for," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said, his voice barely above a whisper.

Spoelstra typically comes into the Heat interview room after game-day practices and makes a brief statement about injury situations or what the team worked on that particular day.

He started his remarks Saturday by talking about Newtown, nothing about the Heat or the Wizards.

"We talked about it as a team today and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and the community," Spoelstra said. "Horrible tragedy in Connecticut. We took some time to give our thoughts and prayers to them."



# Hamilton, Angels finalize \$125M, 5-year deal

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—**Feeling “a little upset” that Texas didn’t move quickly enough to re-sign him, free-agent outfielder Josh Hamilton donned a Los Angeles Angels jersey on Saturday after finalizing a \$125million, five-year contract that he called a new chapter in his life.

“I started off with the Devil Rays and now I’m an Angel,” said the five-time All-Star who was drafted by Tampa Bay before making his major league debut with Cincinnati in 2007.

Hamilton, the 2010 AL MVP, joins a batting order that already includes Albert Pujols and AL Rookie of the Year Mike Trout. The 31-year-old Hamilton hit a career-high 43 home runs last season and batted .285 with 128 RBIs in 148 games.

“To get a guy like Josh and combine him with Albert is going to give us building blocks for what we hope is years to come,” manager Mike Scioscia said. “We can’t wait.”

Neither can dozens of red-clad Angels fans, who lined up outside a restaurant where Hamilton was introduced. The team had a table set up for ticket sales and he signed autographs on his way inside.

Hamilton’s \$25 million average salary matches Philadelphia first baseman Ryan Howard for the second-highest in baseball,

trailing only Alex Rodriguez’s \$27.5 million average with the New York Yankees.

“It was a great investment,” said Angels owner Arte Moreno, who insisted he wasn’t trying to keep up with the Los Angeles Dodgers, who are on track to surpass the New York Yankees as baseball’s biggest spending team in 2013.

“I think it’s just great,” he said about the Dodgers’ spending spree this week that got them former Angels pitcher Zack Greinke for a \$147 million, six-year deal and South Korean left-hander Ryu Hyun-jin for a \$36 million, six-year contract.

“Why would I ever want to wish something bad on someone? I really liked Greinke, but you make a decision how much you’re going to spend on one player. We said we’re going to get a couple relievers and a pitcher. I personally can’t wait to play them.”

Hamilton agreed to the deal with the Angels on Wednesday after having talked with them since the winter meetings in Nashville, Tenn.

“They like to get after it,” he said.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels had hoped to resign Hamilton, who led Texas to consecutive World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011. He said he was disappointed the

Rangers never got a chance to match any offer during the process, as they had expected, or be contacted before Hamilton agreed with another team.

“I gave them everything I had for five years,” Hamilton said. “I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t a little upset they didn’t put the press on.”

Hamilton’s wife, Katie, spoke up and compared the situation to dating.

“We were with them for five years. If you’re going to date someone, you make it known

and official pretty quick,” she said. “They let us date other teams and Josh had said he would give them first chance and they didn’t (make a move).”

Hamilton interjected, saying, “She said, ‘You should have put a ring on it.’”

He said he met with Daniels a week earlier and “told him where my heart was. I was feeling like it was time for me to move on in general. There was no specific thing, like I’m upset or anything like that. It was just time to move on.”

The slugger was considered a risk by some teams because of his history of alcohol and substance abuse, which derailed his career before his surge with the Rangers over the past five seasons. Hamilton had a relapse with alcohol last January and another one in 2009.

“I have a past history of making mistakes with drugs and alcohol, drinking twice in seven years, which is not good for me,” he said. “They’re going to help me with my support system to put things in place that I

had with the Rangers. Nothing that is straining the organization or the clubhouse.”

However, Moreno said there’s no special protection for the Angels in Hamilton’s contract if he relapses other than what is standard in any MLB contract.

Shayne Kelley, who worked in a support role for Hamilton in Texas, will be a daily presence with the team, according to Angels general manager Jerry Dipoto.

“We’ve done our fair share of due diligence,” Dipoto said.

## Cousins to start for injured RG3 on Sunday

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**Robert Griffin III’s sprained right knee will keep him out of the starting lineup Sunday when the Washington Redskins visit the Cleveland Browns in a game with vital playoff implications.

The Redskins announced Saturday night that fellow rookie Kirk Cousins will make his first career start as Redskins (7-6) try to run their winning streak to five games and keep the pressure on the first-place New York Giants in the NFC East.

Griffin tweeted: “The decision was not my own... But I will be there for my team!!! In every way I possibly can”.

The Redskins did not say

whether Griffin will be active for the game, or whether veteran Rex Grossman, who has been an inactive third-string quarterback for every game this season, will serve as the primary backup to Cousins.

Griffin, who is tied with New England’s Tom Brady for the NFL lead in passer rating and whose popularity has soared in a few short months as a 22-year-old newcomer to the league, was injured when he was hit by defensive tackle Haloti Ngata late in regulation during last week’s 31-28 overtime victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

An MRI revealed a mild sprain of the lateral collateral ligament. The No. 2 overall draft pick and last year’s Heis-

man Trophy winner was limited in practice all week, favoring the leg heavily on Wednesday but moving considerably better Thursday and Friday.

But offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan said during the week that a decision on Griffin will rely more on the stability of the knee and the risk of further injury rather than how well the quarterback can move in practice, and head coach Mike Shanahan indicated the final call would hinge on an doctor’s re-examination of the knee on Saturday.

The results of the examination apparently didn’t go RG3’s way.

Griffin has thrown 18 touchdown passes and only four interceptions this season and has a

104.2 rating. He has also rushed for 748 yards, an NFL record for a rookie quarterback.

Cousins was drafted in the fourth round from Michigan State, a surprise selection given that the Redskins had already selected Griffin. He made his first appearance after Griffin suffered a concussion against the Atlanta Falcons in Week 5 and threw one touchdown pass and two fourth-quarter interceptions in a 24-17 loss.

Then last week, Cousins went 2 for 2 in the Redskins’ final drive of regulation after Griffin was injured, throwing an 11-yard touchdown pass to Pierre Garcon with 29 seconds left and then running in the game-tying 2-point conversion.

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# PABLE cycling group visits Tinian



A group of 26 PABLE cycling group members poses in front of the famous latte stones site on Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group of 26 PABLE cycling group members ventured over to Tinian for a tour ride of the island during the weekend of Dec. 1 and 2.

PABLE stands for Promo-

tion Association of Bicycling For a New Life for the Environment.

The group plans on visiting again next year and showed interest in building a relationship with the Bicycle Associa-

tion of Tinian. However, being more of a civic group, PABLE does not normally participate in competitive racing.

They have a website, [www.pable.or.kr](http://www.pable.or.kr), but it does not offer an English translation option.

Further research according to a profile linked to PABLE contact [pable1993@hanmail.net](mailto:pable1993@hanmail.net), suggests that the group is the first civil organization in Korea that has based its entire campaign solely around cycling.

Its goals are to solve health, traffic, environment, and energy problems through promoting the lifestyle of cycling.

It also makes efforts to improve bicycle-related regulations.

Found in 1993, PABLE has since won numerous civic ac-

colades from participating in various events and charity functions on both a local and international level.

The group is based in 88 Olympic Park in Seoul, South Korea. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

## Saipan Little League general membership meeting today



The 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc.

Board of Directors will hold a mandatory general membership meeting at 6pm today at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Topics for discussion include the start up of the up-

coming 2013 season, substitute field selections, adoption of the new ground rules, final count of participating teams, recruitment efforts, and fundraising generation.

All interested managers, coaches, and volunteers for the upcoming season are encouraged to attend. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

## CNMI

From Page 28

with loads of high-paced action that also included the 670 and the 671 each adding a non-title victory to their collection, while in other results, Tinian's Rino Reyes and Regino "The Kid" Mundo, both of Zeng Zung, imposed sound first round wins.

Ultimate Fighter Championship contender representing Guam and the Pacific John Tuck was in attendance as a corner man for the visiting island neighbors; Dandan's Kevin Villagomez, representing Team Seahorse, Inc. came away victorious in his flyweight dispute, and K-1 Kickboxing greenhorn A.J. Aldan earned the nod in his exhibition debut.

Going back to the main features, Duenas hoisted the flyweight prize after defeating Tiyan Tough Walkers' Dylan Pablo (4-2) with a technical knockout victory due to referee stoppage at 3:46 seconds into the second round.

The match started out pretty even as Pablo worked through some nice mitt combinations by Duenas at the start and slowed down the fight with a clinch hold.

Pablo pressed Duenas into the fence, though the latter's defense held strong.

Referee Keith Nabors eventually broke them up and Duenas connected with an inadvertent low blow, but Pablo

scored a takedown upon gaining his composure and went to work on Duenas from the half guard position.

Duenas defended well from the bottom and even wall crawled to his feet in the last 30 seconds of the round.

He led out the second round with some quick low kicks and set up a nice body slam that gave him the upper hand in the center of the cage.

Duenas made the most of his turn on top and bloodied Pablo up pretty bad with waves of elbows and strikes to the head until Nabors had seen enough.

Duenas was elated as he thanked his family and dedicated the win to his cousin MacGarette Duenas who left recently to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

In the heavyweight nightcap, "Bam-Bam" Lassiter turned on his afterburners to make it past Guam Muay Thai's Marquis Navarro (3-2) and showed off some of his newly acquired grappling skills with an impressive arm bar submission at 4:01 into round three.

Lassiter worked Navarro into the cage in Round 1, but landed an ill-fated shot to the latter's groin that caused a brief pause in the action.

The home bet then dropped the visitor with a big right hook and pounced him immediately to gain the dominant position.

With side control from the top, Lassiter delivered multiple strikes to Navarro's ribs and

won the round.

To his credit, Navarro proved to have a tough chin as they say and battled back in Round 2. In fact, there could be an argument to say that he won the round as most of Lassiter's swings came up empty after the big connection earlier in the bout.

Navarro continued his comeback into the early stages of Round 3 when Lassiter dug deep and scored a critical takedown that likely kept his favor in order.

From there he mounted Navarro and mixed it up well with some elbows and punches before hog-tying the latter in an arm bar for the win.

Lassiter announced plans of challenging Spike 22's Roque Martinez in Pacific Xtreme Combat this coming Jan. 18.

Alvarez responded to his rematch request with a smooth first round tap out victory over Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-2). The new champion now boasts both of Nuique's lone defeats and thus earned dubs on the latter's title.

Alvarez shrugged off the explosion of the crowd when Nuique entered and then shrugged off the home bet's opening stand up combinations and patiently waited for his opportunity to strike.

Nuique defended Alvarez's clinch attempts early on, but the latter eventually dragged him to the ground.

The pair tossed and turned as both were attempting submis-

sion holds, but in the end, Alvarez sunk in a rear-naked choke just under the four-minute mark at 3:46

Then in the battle for the middleweight title, "The Haole Horror" Mellon shelled Trench Tech's "No Way" Jose Mafnas with countless right hand strikes that swelled the latter's left eye shut for a technical knockout victory awarded via doctor's stoppage at 3:07 into the third round.

Mellon methodically threw his punch combinations with success and did a good job keeping the match from going to the ground by clinching Mafnas into the fence until Nabors separated them.

He opted for a slam in the second round and tried to employ his ground-and-pound game for a spell, but almost fell into an arm bar leg lock by Mafnas as time expired.

The near submission and a nice haymaker out of the gate that buckled the eventual champ were Mafnas' only bright spots, however as Mellon controlled the fight for the most of the first two rounds and reverted to his initial stand-up tactic in Round 3.

Mellon scored a late takedown almost as a way to rest and eat up some time and the match was ruled over shortly after the pair was brought to their feet.

Results of the other matches will be released tomorrow. Trench Warz 16: Fire Power! was organized by Trench Tech Purebred Promotions.

Nauru in the bidding contest.

After losing the 2017 bid, the CNMI, through the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, has expressed interest in bidding for the 2021 Mini Games. If the CNMI offers weightlifting in its calendar of events, Coffa said the Commonwealth has a 90 percent chance of winning the bid. NMASA president Michael White in the group's meeting early this month also said weightlifting could be a deciding factor in the bid, as two nations had already assured him that they will not submit a bid if the CNMI includes the sport in the calendar.

## REVIVAL

From Page 28

ation staff Calvin Tagabuel was the perennial representative of the Commonwealth to off-island tournaments in the 1990s. However, for the past six years, the group has been inactive.

"I've been trying to get in touch with former CNMI weightlifters like Jacinta, as they will be the best person to lead the revival of the group and recruit members. I am also looking for Calvin, who has a chance to make it to the Top 3 in the region if he trains and

competes in a regular basis," Coffa said.

The visiting official added that besides finding the right individuals to lead the group, OWF will also donate equipment and send some people on Saipan to conduct clinics.

"I hope that in the next six months, we will draw the interest of individuals, particularly the youth. I hope we can work on a program for the youth or for schools," Coffa added.

David Barnhouse, a USAW Level 1 Sports Performance Coach and works at Marianas Strength, was one of the few people who met with Coffa last

weekend and showed interest in joining a weightlifting group. Barnhouse added their gym has about five to 10 regulars and some students who could be recruited in the program once a group is formed.

"Having an organization and getting recognized by an international federation will give us a chance to compete off-island," Barnhouse said.

Weightlifting is included in the calendar of events in the 2013 Mini Games in Wallis & Futuna and is likely to be on the list of sports in the 2017 Mini Games, which Vanuatu will host after beating the CNMI and

## WONG

From Page 28

Despite his victory on Heat 7, Wong missed the cut for the 50m freestyle, as only the swimmers with the Top 16 fastest times qualified in the semifinals. His time was ranked at No. 80 among 155 finishers. Russia's Vladimir Morozov submitted the best qualifying time at 20.98 seconds.

Wong recorded his second preliminary race win in the 200m individual medley last Friday. He was on Heat 2 and clocked in at 2:05.84, more than two seconds ahead of Gibraltar's Colin Bensadon (2:07.88). He also set a new PBT in the 200m IM, chopping off more than four seconds from his entry time (2:10.18).

The 21-year-old Wong timed in at 26.70 seconds in the butterfly, 33.93 seconds in the backstroke, 35.40 seconds in the breaststroke, and 29.81 seconds in the freestyle to beat 8 others in his heat. His time in the

200m IM was the 38th fastest among more than 50 swimmers. Ryan Lochte of the U.S. owned the best qualifying time in the 200m IM after logging 1:53.31 on Heat 4.

Wong's teammate, Kenzuke Kimura, was on the same heat as the former's in the 200m IM and placed seventh in the group with a time of 2:16.17. The 16-year-old Kimura posted 28.44 second in the butterfly, 35.55 seconds in the backstroke, 39.77 seconds in the breaststroke, and 32.41 seconds in the freestyle to surpass his PBT (2:19.19).

Kimura also joined the 50m freestyle last Thursday and placed fourth on Heat 6 after submitting 26.07 seconds, .19 seconds faster than his PBT.

Meanwhile, Kimura and Wong were scheduled to compete in 50m breaststroke and 100m IM in Day 4 (Saturday morning in Turkey) of the FINA event. Then in the final day of the competition (Sunday), Kimura was slated to race in the 50m butterfly, while Victoria Chentsova was entered in the 200m freestyle.

## NONITO

From Page 28

he opened up. He wasn't afraid. He was aiming to surprise me. But when he was opening up, that gave me the left hook and when I can throw sitting down on that left hook, everybody will go down."

The 30-year-old Donaire hasn't lost a fight in more than 11 years. He also knocked down Arce with about 2 minutes to go in the second round with a right-left combination.

"I'd promised my kids that if I lost this fight, I'd retire," said the 33-year-old Arce, a former world champion. "Fortunately, I have taken care of what I have earned through the years."

The fight headlined HBO's "World Championship Boxing" season finale, and the broadcast marked Larry Merchant's last after 35 years as a ringside boxing commentator for the network.

"All good things come to an end," Merchant told The Asso-

ciated Press prior to the fight. "There will always be more fights. It was great to go out on a great fight like last week (Juan Manuel Marquez's knockout of Manny Pacquiao) and to be able to speak directly to all the fans of HBO Boxing for all these years."

The 81-year-old Merchant was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2009.

"Thirty-five years on one show in television? I never imagined that it could go on for that long, because that is not what happens in the entertainment world."

An undercard fight between WBA super-bantamweight champion Guillermo Rigondeaux of Cuba and Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym of Thailand was scratched after Poonsawat failed blood tests this week.

Poonsawat was denied a license by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The reason for the failed blood tests wasn't disclosed.



# Weekend Sports

## CNMI bets compete in off-island tourneys

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

Six CNMI athletes left Saipan last week to represent the Commonwealth in international and regional competitions.

Swimmers Rezne Wong, Kensuke Kimura, and Victoria Chentsova left for Turkey to participate in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, while tennis' Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Luther Lizama headed to New Zealand to join the Pa-

cific Oceania Touring Team.

The three CNMI swimmers who are accompanied by Minerva Cabrera went on to have a good start in the five-day tournament, posting new personal best time in the short course (25-meter) competition.

Wong and Kimura raced in the 100m breaststroke in Day 1 and tallied 1:05.03 and 1:09.22, respectively, to crush their PBTs or entry times of 1:07.21 and 1:12.52. Chentsova joined the 100m backstroke event and timed in at 1:14.14 to eclipse her PBT of 1:19.65.

With Chentsova in Turkey, she missed the 2012 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run that drew more than 100 runners.

Meanwhile, the three CNMI junior tennis players completed the first of the three tournaments in Zealand with Lee making it to the finals of both the girls U12 singles and doubles events of the 2012 Waikato Christmas Junior Open in Hamilton.

Lee recorded four wins in the singles, three of the came off seeded foes, to march into the finals where she eventually lost to Fiji's Ruby Coffin. Then

in the doubles, Lee partnered with Heras and eliminated three ranked foes before bowing to Coffin and Vanuatu's Emma Maucotel in the finals.

Lizama was in the same tournament and advanced into the quarterfinals of the boys U12 singles' consolation draw.

Another CNMI athlete, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, made the Commonwealth proud, when he won a silver and a bronze medal in his first competition since moving to the mainland last month.

Alvarez placed second and

third in the Gi and No-Gi (white belt division's 150-160lbs) of the 2012 Grapplers Quest World Championships held in New Jersey's Asbury Park Convention Hall.

In local events, Shirley's and Independents FC 1 took the Division A and B championships, respectively, in the NMIFA women's futsal league, while Paire, Inter Godfather's and Korean Football Association joined Wild Bill's in the Final Four of the M-League Challenge Cup.

Still in soccer, the CNMI was placed in Group D during the

draw for the AFC Challenge Cup 2014 Qualifiers and will be competing against host Nepal, Bangladesh, and Palestine.

In other soccer news, MP United Football Club hosted a two-week camp with former Philippine National Team member Rudy del Rosario conducting the clinic at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

In basketball, Shirley's Coffee Shop and CTSI/D&Q eliminated Pacific Oriental, Inc. and Fiesta Resort & Spa, respectively, to advance to the finals of the Tan Holdings caging.



Participants in last week's 2012 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run pose for a group photo before the start of the racing at the parking lot of the Minatchom Atdao pavilion.



Two runners and their dog head out to the course of last week's 2012 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run.



Shirley's Coffee Shop's Vince Yap pulls up for a bank shot against a POI defender during their semis game in the Tan Holdings caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Rezne Wong stretches before racing in Day 1 of the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey.



Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, seen here in an undated photo session, won silver and bronze medals in his first grappling tournament since moving to the mainland last month.



Paire's Steve McKagan, left, is tapped by a teammate after scoring the penalty kick against Shirley's during their game in the M-League Challenge Cup last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Carol Lee, third left, seen here with other winners in last month's 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, made it to the finals of both the girls U12 singles and doubles events in the 2012 Waikato Christmas Junior Open in Hamilton, New Zealand.



Former Philippine National Team member Rudy del Rosario gives instructions to players before conducting a drill during the MP United-sponsored soccer camp last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.





Parker leads  
Spurs past  
Celtics

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



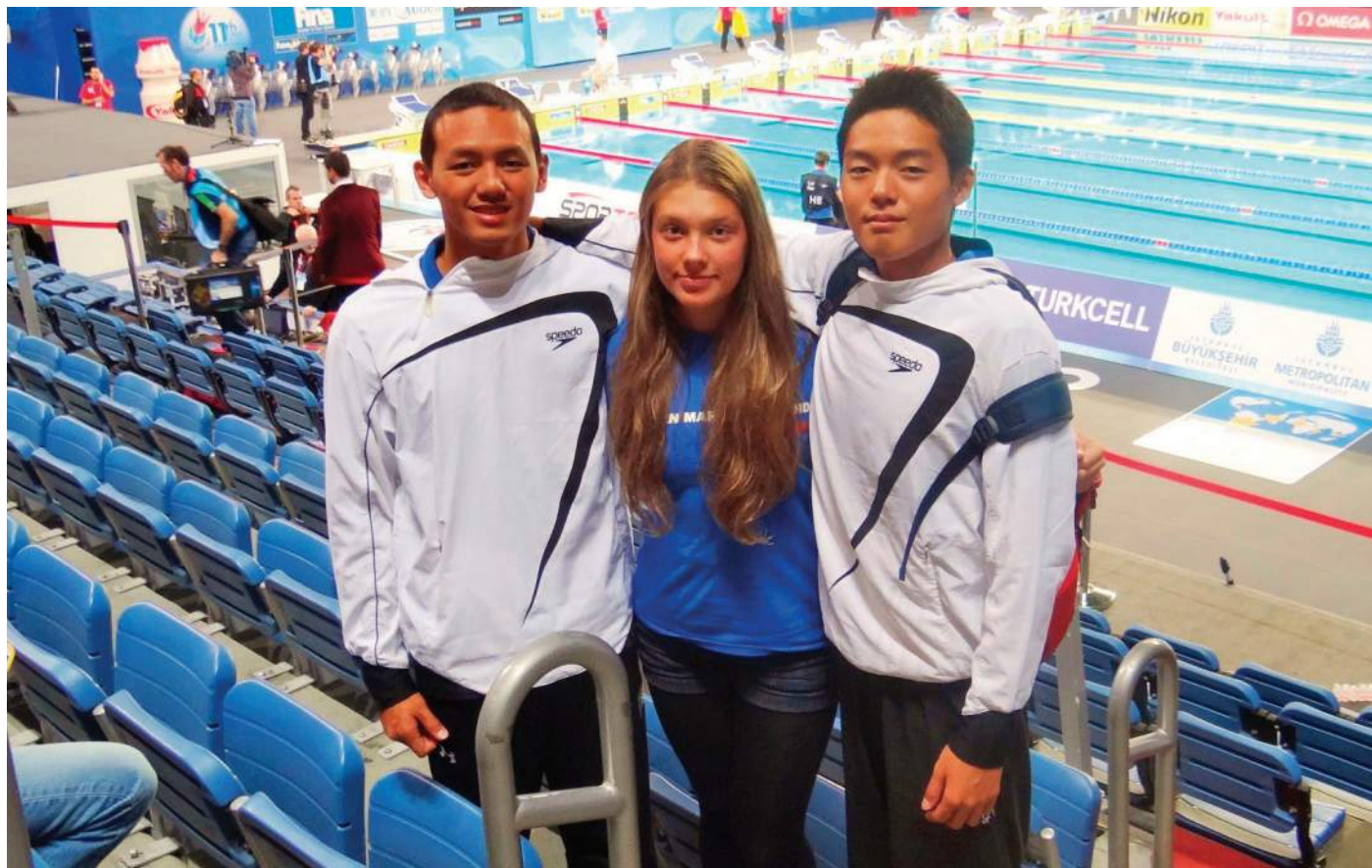
CNMI bets  
compete in  
off-island  
tournaments

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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Wong wins prelim races in Turkey



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rezne Wong, Victoria Chentsova, and Kensuke Kimura pose for a group photo after the opening ceremony of the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey, last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong topped two preliminary races in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships.



The University of Hawaii-Manoa swim team member timed in at 24.03 seconds in the 50m freestyle event last Thursday morning at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul to rule Heat 7 and beat eight other swimmers. Wong finished .30 seconds ahead of runner-up Christian Selby (24.32 seconds) of Barbados and his time also crushed his personal best or entry time of 25.29 seconds.

See WONG on Page 26

## CNMI, Guam each take 2 titles in Trench Warz 16



Trench Tech Purebred's Josh "Chaos" Duenas, left, and Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter had their hands raised in their respective flyweight and heavyweight title matches featured in Trench Warz 16: Fire Power! last Friday night at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred salvaged two of four mixed martial arts title matches that center-pieced Trench Warz 16: Fire Power! last

Friday at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. Saipan's Josh "Chaos" Duenas (3-4) and Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter (6-1) arose as Trench Tech's inaugu-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

ral flyweight and heavyweight champions, while Guam bets, Spike 22'sd Jared "The Haoale Horror" Mellon (9-1) and Countershot MMA's Josh "Hedgehog" Alvarez (12-5),

took the middleweight and bantamweight belts back south with them.

Like past Trench Tech season closers, Trench Warz 16 did not disappoint and came packed

See CNMI on Page 26

## Revival of weightlifting group pushed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Oceania Weightlifting Federation general secretary Paul Coffa is encouraging the CNMI to reestablish a weightlifting organization to bring more opportunities to the islands and its athletes.

"Weightlifting is one of the most popular sports in Oceania and if the CNMI will form a group, it could send athletes to

a lot of tournaments and possibly host some, including the 2021 Pacific Mini Games," said Coffa, who meet with a couple of interested individuals at Marianas Strength in Garapan last Friday.

The last weightlifting federation group formed in the CNMI (2003) had Jacinta Kapileo and Jerome Jerome as president and vice president, respectively, while former Division of Sports and Recre-

See REVIVAL on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Oceania Weightlifting Federation general secretary Paul Coffa poses with some local athletes during a visit at Marianas Strength in Garapan last Friday.

## Nonito Donaire stops Jorge Arce in 3rd



HOUSTON (AP)—Nonito Donaire stopped Jorge Arce with a left late in the third round Saturday to retain the WBO super-bantamweight title and send the Mexican veteran into retirement.

Donaire, from the Philippines, improved to 31-1 with his 20th knockout. Arce dropped to 61-7-2.

"My left hook was a damaging hook tonight," Donaire said. "I felt very strong in the ring."

Donaire won in front of a raucous, mostly pro-Arce crowd of 7,250 at Toyota Center.

"The reason why people survive is because they are afraid to open up," Donaire said. "I have a lot of respect for (Arce) because he came in there and

See NONITO on Page 26



Nonito Donaire, center, celebrates as referee Laurence Cole, right, holds up his arm after beating Jorge Arce in their WBO junior featherweight title boxing match Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, in Houston.